

APNewsBreak: US Muslim sues FBI over torture



Yonas Fikre, a Portland, Oregon Muslim American talks to media at his lawyer's office.

(AP Photo /C. Bresciani)

NIGEL DUARA

Associated Press

PORTLAND, Oregon (AP) —

An American Muslim who says he was beaten with batons by prison interrogators while held in solitary confinement overseas for more than three months has sued the FBI and State Department, claiming the torture was done at their behest.

The lawsuit filed Thursday in U.S. District Court in Oregon seeks \$30 million and several injunctions against the U.S. government concerning its treatment of citizens overseas.

Yonas Fikre, a Sudanese man of Eritrean descent, said he was held for 106 days in the United Arab Emirates after refusing to cooperate with Portland, Oregon-based FBI agents in an interview in Sudan. The State Department has confirmed previously that Fikre was held in Abu Dhabi "on unspecified charges," but said he was visited by State Department officials and showed no signs of mistreatment.

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Tornado Alley



Image shows storm clouds moving over Guthrie, Okla., on Thursday, May 30, 2013. At least two tornadoes touched down in Oklahoma and another hit Arkansas on Thursday as a powerful storm system moved through the middle of the country, injuring at least nine people.

(AP Photo/KFOR-TV)
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Oprah to Harvard grads: learn from your failures

JAY LINDSAY

Associated Press

CAMBRIDGE, Massachusetts (AP) —

The invitation from Harvard University caught Oprah Winfrey at a low point. Her new TV network was struggling, branded a flop in the media, when Harvard President Drew Gilpin Faust called last year to ask Winfrey to address 2013 graduates.

The request came "in the very moment when I had stopped succeeding," Winfrey recalled.

She headed for a long shower to think ("It was either that or a bag of Oreos," she joked) and emerged resolved to change her story by the time her speech rolled around. A year later, Winfrey said, her Oprah Winfrey Network has found its footing and her approach to facing setbacks had been validated. Stumbles

are inevitable but not permanent, Winfrey told graduates Thursday. "I want you to remember this: There is no such thing as failure," she said. "Failure is just life trying to move us in another direction." Winfrey spoke during the afternoon session of Harvard's 362nd

commencement before a packed Harvard Yard. The media mogul and former talk-show host urged graduates to find their own story, which she described as their true calling or purpose. "When you inevitably struggle and find yourself stuck in a hole, that is the

story that will get you out," she said. Her own calling, she said, was to use television to show people "that what unites us is ultimately far more redeeming and compelling than anything that separates (us)." □

Winfrey's speech dipped into politics, as she referred to entrenched partisanship that's stymied legislation she said most Americans favor, including stronger background checks for gun purchases and a path to citizenship for immigrants in the country illegally.

Winfrey urged graduates to break through divisions and spoke of a lesson she learned from doing thousands of interviews. Every person — from George W. Bush to Barack Obama to Beyonce, "in all her Beyonce-ness" — asks the same thing when the interview is over: "Was that OK?" □



Oprah Winfrey walks with Prof. Henry Louis Gates during commencement ceremonies at Harvard University in Cambridge, Mass., Thursday, May 30, 2013. Winfrey later received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree.

(AP Photo/Elise Amendola)

Syria:

Assad 'confident in victory' in civil war

**BASSEM MROUE
ZEINA KARAM**
Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Syrian President Bashar Assad said in an interview broadcast Thursday that he is "confident in victory" in his country's civil war, and he warned that Damascus would retaliate for any future Israeli airstrike on his territory.

Assad also told the Lebanese TV station Al-Manar that Russia has fulfilled some of its weapons contracts recently, but he was vague on whether this included advanced S-300 air defense systems.

The comments were in line with a forceful and confident message the regime has been sending in recent days, even as the international community attempts to launch a peace conference in Geneva, possibly next month. The strong tone coincided with recent military victories in battles with armed rebels trying to topple him.

The interview was broadcast as Syria's main political opposition group appeared to fall into growing disarray.

The international community had hoped the two sides would start talks on a political transition. However, the opposition group, the Syrian National Coalition, said earlier Thursday that it would not attend a conference,

linking the decision to a regime offensive on the western Syrian town of Qusair and claiming that hundreds of wounded people were trapped there.

Assad, who appeared animated and gestured frequently in the TV interview, said he has been confident from the start of the conflict more than two years ago that he would be able to defeat his opponents.

"Regarding my confidence about victory, had we not had this confidence, we wouldn't have been able to fight in this battle for two years, facing an inter-



This image made from video shows Syrian President Bashar Assad during an interview broadcast on Al-Manar Television on Thursday, May 30, 2013.

(AP Photo/Al-Manar Television via AP video)

national attack," he said. Assad portrayed the battle to unseat him as a "world war against Syria and the resistance" — a reference to the Lebanese Hezbollah, a close ally.

"We are confident and sure about victory, and I confirm that Syria will stay as it was," he said, "but even more than before, in supporting resistance fighters in all the Arab world."

Assad has said he would stay in power at least until elections scheduled in

2014, but he went further in the interview, saying he "will not hesitate to run again" if the Syrian people want him to do so.

Taking a tough line, he also warned that Syria would strike back hard against any future Israeli airstrike.

Earlier this month, Israel had struck near Damascus, targeting suspected shipments of advanced weapons purportedly intended for Hezbollah. Syria did not respond at the time.

Assad said he has informed

Man accused of killing UK soldier appears in court

**C. VINOGRAD
GREGORY KATZ**
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — A prime suspect in the vicious slaying of a British soldier sat handcuffed in court Thursday, given permission not to stand up before a judge because of wounds sustained when he was shot by police.

Michael Adebawale, 22, confirmed his name, address and date of birth as the investigation into the shocking killing entered its courtroom phase.

He is one of two men suspected of attacking Lee Rigby near a military barracks in southeast London. The other suspect, 28-year-old Michael Adebolajo, remains hospitalized and has not been charged. He is likely to be charged once he has recovered enough to be released from hospital.

The attack on Rigby by two men wielding knives and meat cleavers has aggravated tensions in Britain, especially since Adebolajo — carrying bloody weapons — invited onlookers to film him after the killing as he ranted about the British government's presence in Muslim lands. There has been a surge in anti-Muslim protests and attacks on mosques since the killing, and far-right groups have mobilized.

London police on Thursday barred a planned march by the far-right British National Party from the scene of the attack to a nearby Islamic center because of the threat of "serious disorder." Police said Saturday's demonstration would be held in central London instead.

The al-Qaida-linked magazine Inspire, meanwhile, expressed support for the soldier's slaying. In a recently released issue, the magazine said it and other "lone-wolf" attacks were a response to Western "governments' invasion of Muslim lands, occupations, aggression and oppression." □

US Muslim sues FBI, claims torture overseas



Yonas Fikre, center, a Portland, Oregon Muslim American sits with his U.S. attorney Thomas Nelson, left, and Swedish lawyer Hans Bredberg, right. Fikre has sued the FBI and State Department, claiming that he was tortured at their behest.

(AP Photo / Claudio Bresciani)

Continued from front

Fikre said the FBI agents named in the suit wanted him to become an informant at Portland's largest mosque, Masjid As-Saber, and were angered when he refused. He said interrogators in Abu Dhabi later used information Fikre had given to the FBI agents in his interrogation.

Fikre said he told his interrogators that many of their questions were the same ones he had been asked during his FBI interview.

"(Fikre) thus inquired whether his confinement and mistreatment was at the request of the FBI," according to the lawsuit. "On each such occasion, the interrogators responded by beating plaintiff severely."

Two other Oregon Muslims who worship at the mosque have also alleged they were held overseas and were asked to become informants by Portland-based FBI agents. Both men have returned to Oregon.

The mosque has come under scrutiny before. Mohamed Osman Mohamud, a Somali American convicted of plotting to set off a bomb in downtown Portland in 2010, occasionally worshipped there. A decade ago, seven Muslims with ties to the mosque were arrested following a failed effort to enter Afghanistan and fight U.S. forces.

Named in Fikre's suit are Attorney General Eric Holder, Secretary of State John Kerry, FBI Director Robert Mueller, FBI Terrorism Screening Center director Timothy Healy and the two Portland-based agents,

David Noordeloos and Jason Dundas.

Fikre came to Portland in 2006 and worked for a cell-phone company for a period. In 2009, he decided to open an electronics retail business in Sudan. His wife remained in Portland.

In April 2010, a man claiming to be a U.S. embassy official in Sudan asked Fikre to come to "a luncheon the following day in order to discuss how Americans might stay safe during a period of political turmoil in Sudan," according to the suit.

Instead, Fikre said he went through embassy security and was met by the FBI agents, Dundas and Noordeloos, in a small room. Fikre said he was denied representation by an attorney. He believed he was not permitted to leave, though he didn't actually try to stand and leave. □

US accused of withholding evidence in DEA drug case

BEN FOX,
Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — Two Colombians who were facing the prospect of spending the rest of their lives in a U.S. prison for drug trafficking will go home much sooner after prosecutors were accused of withholding evidence about payments by the Drug Enforcement Administration to police in the South American country. John Finkelstein Winer and Jose Salazar Buitrago both pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to transport cocaine and received sentences of 36 months, with credit for the nearly two years they have already been in custody. The hastily arranged plea deal and sentences before a federal judge in Florida on May 23 was a rare defeat of sorts in a drug case for the U.S. government, which has been working with Colombia to extradite hundreds of people suspected of trafficking in recent years and routinely sentences them to lengthy prison terms.

"For us it was really an outstanding outcome considering all the circumstances," said Jose Quinon, the veteran Miami criminal defense lawyer who represented Finkelstein, a 57-year-old native of Bogota. The two defendants were accused of helping to obtain planes for Colombian drug traffickers to smuggle drugs through other countries, including Venezuela and Honduras, to the U.S. Both men insisted they were innocent and decided to take the case to trial, a risky move because defendants typically receive a longer sentence if they lose in court than in a plea bargain. Finkelstein and Buitrago, 57, were arrested in September 2011 with 34 other men in a case heralded by the Department of Justice at the time as "Operation Seven Trumpets." At least nine have already pleaded guilty, according to court records.

Lawyers for Buitrago, who was represented by the of-

fice of the Federal Public Defender of the Southern District of Florida, asked prosecutors in April to turn over records of any payments from the DEA to the officers who investigated their client in Colombia. Such information could have been used to challenge wiretaps or impeach witnesses in the case.

No records were turned over and the lead prosecutor, Assistant U.S. Attorney Andrea Hoffman told the judge that there were no such payments. That was contradicted by the first witness, an officer from the Colombian police, as well as a DEA agent, who testified that Hoffman knew about the payments at least a day before the trial started. The payments themselves, about \$200 per month to at least 11 agents over about three years came from the huge U.S. aid package to fight drugs known as Plan Colombia. The judge said the prosecution was ethically and legally bound to turn the information over to the defense. U.S. District Judge Marcia Cooke denied the defense motion to dismiss the charges or declare a mistrial but was clearly angry at the prosecutor, saying she was "personally frustrated and disappointed" at Hoffman and did not believe the prosecutor's claims that she had not been aware of the payments at the start of the trial. "I think the United States was aware that Colombian police officers, in the course and scope of their duties, received payment," she said at a May 22 hearing. "I think they were aware of it and for whatever reason, did not disclose that to defense counsel." Prosecutors soon sought a quick end to the case. "The next day we had a deal on the table and we took it," Quinon said. The lawyer said he didn't know why the government was so eager to close the case, without a presentencing report or any further delay. Michelle Alvarez, a spokeswoman for the U.S. □

Tornadoes strike Great Plains

SEAN MURPHY
Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — At least two tornadoes touched down in Oklahoma and another hit Arkansas on Thursday as a pow-

erful storm system moved through the middle of the country, injuring at least nine people. The National Weather Service reported two tornadoes on the ground near Perkins and Ripley in north central Oklahoma and another west of Oden, Ark. All nine of the injured were in Arkansas; two of the injuries were attributed to a lightning strike in Rogers. Lightning was also believed to have started a fire at a residential complex in northwestern Indiana. Some trees, homes and power lines were damaged in Arkansas. Emergency Management spokesman Tommy Jackson said first responders had trouble reaching a destroyed home where one person was hurt because a number of trees were blocking the road. In Oklahoma, Perkins Emergency Management Director Travis Majors said there were no injuries or damage there. Ripley, about 10 miles east of Per-

kins, did not seem to have significant damage. The Payne County emergency management director did not immediately return a phone call seeking comment. This spring's tornado season got a late start, with unusually cool weather keeping funnel clouds at bay until mid-May. The season usually starts in March and then ramps up for the next



A wall cloud forms near Interstate 35 and Purcell, Okla. on Thursday, May 30, 2013. At least two tornadoes touched down in Oklahoma and another hit Arkansas on Thursday as a powerful storm system moved through the middle of the country. At least nine injuries were reported.

(AP Photo/Alonzo Adams)

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couple of months. The Storm Prediction Center in Norman, Okla., warned that there was a moderate risk of severe weather Thursday over much of eastern and central Oklahoma, with storms also possible in the rest of the central United States from Texas to Wisconsin. Flooding is also a concern in parts of Missouri, Iowa and Illinois through Sunday. In addition to tornadoes, the storms were bringing rain and hail. "Right now we've been getting a few thunderstorms, but they're very severe supercell thunderstorms," said Michael Scotten, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service. "The whole storm rotates, and they produce on occasion some tornadoes and heavy hail." The severe weather threat led organizers to postpone the start of the outdoor Wakarusa Music Festival near Ozark, Ark., which will feature Widespread Panic. □

Alleged Chicago backpack bomber to serve 23 years

MICHAEL TARM
Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — A U.S. judge sentenced a young Lebanese immigrant to 23 years in prison Thursday for placing a backpack he believed contained a powerful bomb along a bustling street near a major Chicago sports stadium. The 25-year-old Sami Samir Hassoun, a former baker, pleaded guilty last year to dropping the backpack into a trash can outside a bar packed with late-night revelers across the road from Wrigley Field in 2010. FBI undercover agents had given him the bag. The defense depicted Hassoun as a gullible youth sucked into the sting during an alcohol-soaked stretch of his life by an informant eager to please his FBI handlers. Prosecutors say he declined repeated opportunities to back out of the plot. The judge invoked the specter of the deadly Boston Marathon bombings in April, saying if Hassoun's bomb had been real, it would have made Boston look like a minor incident. Hassoun, crying, apologized. As part of a plea deal with the government, Hassoun pleaded guilty last year to two explosives counts. In return, he faced a sentencing range of 20 to 30 years, rather than a maximum term of life in prison. Hassoun blamed his actions in part on childhood trauma living in Abidjan, Ivory Coast. During civil strife there, Hassoun, then 11, witnessed machete killings from an apartment balcony, he wrote in his sentencing statement. His family emigrated from Lebanon to the U.S. in 2008. To dampen his emotional pain, he wrote that he drank alcohol "all day, every day" for months before the would-be attack in 2010. The defense has suggested investigators may have entrapped Hassoun, arguing the paid informant urged him to agree to increasingly ominous-sounding plots. □

Lawyer for US mom in Mexico 'cautiously optimistic'

CRISTINA SILVA
MICHAEL WEISSENSTEIN
Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — The husband of a U.S. woman in a Mexico prison on a drug-smuggling charge said he is confident the charges will be dropped after court officials reviewed video Thursday showing the couple boarding a bus with only blankets and bottles of water in hand. Gary Maldonado said the video should exonerate him and his wife in the nightmare scenario that has prompted outrage in the U.S. among politicians and pitted the conservative Mormon family against a judicial system that has long struggled with corruption. "It showed exactly what I hoped it would show, what we brought on this bus," Maldonado said. Maldonado was arrested by the Mexican military last week after they found nearly 12 pounds (5.4 kilograms) of pot under his wife's bus seat on a commercial bus traveling from Mexico to Arizona. After Yanira Maldonado begged the soldiers to allow her to come along to serve as her husband's translator, the

military officials decided to release him and arrest her instead, he said. The family's lawyer in Nogales, Jose Francisco Benitez Paz, told reporters that he is "100 percent" confident Yanira Maldonado will be released after a judge reviewed the video from the bus company. Benitez said the judge

passenger. Gary Maldonado said authorities originally demanded \$5,000 for his wife's release, but the bribe fell through. "Here, we are guilty until you are proven innocent," he said. Yanira Maldonado is a naturalized U.S. citizen who was born in Mexico, her

points along Mexico's main highways and have routinely seized cocaine, marijuana, heroin and more from buses. Mexico's justice system is carried out largely in secret, with proceedings done almost entirely in writing. Four years ago, Mexico decriminalized the possession of small amounts of marijuana, cocaine and heroin, but it still has stiff penalties for drug trafficking. Mexican law doesn't specify a minimum or maximum sentence in drug crimes and leaves it up to the judge to decide how long the sentence should be, said Jose Luis Manjarrez, a spokesman for federal prosecutors in Mexico. On Wednesday, an army lieutenant, a private and another sergeant were supposed to appear in court but they did not show up. The army did not explain why, the couple's lawyer said. The Mexican Embassy in Washington said in a statement Tuesday that Yanira Maldonado's "rights to a defense counsel and due process are being observed." The embassy didn't respond to allegations she was framed. □



In a photo provided by the Maldonado family Gary and Yanira Maldonado are shown in 2012.

(AP Photo/Maldonado Family)

would decide by Friday whether to free Maldonado. He noted that it was a fairly sophisticated smuggling effort that included packets of drugs attached to the seat bottoms with metal hooks — a task that would have been impossible for a

family said. The couple celebrated their first wedding anniversary while she was jailed. Drug traffickers have increasingly been using passenger buses to move U.S.-bound drugs through Mexico. Federal agents and soldiers have set up check-

NYC police: Notes to Obama, mayor had gun threats

COLLEEN LONG
D. SUPERVILLE
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A suspicious letter mailed to the White House was similar to two threatening, poison-laced letters on the gun control debate sent to New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, one of the most potent advocates of stricter gun laws in the U.S., officials said Thursday. The Secret Service said the letter was addressed to President Barack Obama and was intercepted by a White House mail screening facility. Two similar letters postmarked in Louisiana and sent to Bloomberg in New York and his gun control group in Washington contained traces of the deadly poison ricin. It wasn't immediately clear whether the letter sent to

Obama contained ricin. It was turned over to the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force for testing and investigation. The letters were the latest in a string of toxin-laced missives, but authorities would not say whether the letters to Bloomberg and Obama were believed to be linked

to any other recent case. In one, a man in Washington state was charged with threatening to kill a federal judge in a letter that contained ricin. About a month earlier, letters containing the substance were addressed to Obama, a senator and a judge. Another

man has been arrested in that case. The two Bloomberg letters, opened Friday in New York and Sunday in Washington, contained an oily pinkish-orange substance. New York Police Department Commissioner Raymond Kelly said Thursday that all three letters apparently came from the same machine or computer and may be identical but referred specific questions to the FBI. The FBI said in a statement that field tests on the letters were consistent with the presence of a biological agent, and the letters were turned over to an accredited laboratory for the kind of thorough analysis that is needed to verify a tentative finding. "More letters may be received," the statement said, without elaboration. □



Mayor Michael Bloomberg leaves after speaking at the Real Estate Board of New York on Thursday, May 30, 2013, in New York. (AP Photo/John Minchillo)



Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio speaks with the media in Phoenix. (AP Photo/Ross D. Franklin)

JACQUES BILLEAUD
Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — A campaign to force a recall election against the polarizing sheriff of metropolitan Phoenix failed on Thursday after recall organizers said they couldn't collect enough voter signatures to bring the lawman to the

ballot again.

Organizers of the recall effort against Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio needed to turn in more than 335,000 valid voter signatures by 5 p.m. Thursday to force a recall election.

"It is a sad day," said recall campaign manager Lilia

Group fails in bid to recall sheriff Arpaio

Alvarez. "It is a disappointment."

Recall organizers won't reveal the number of signatures they gathered. That said, the last update they gave on their numbers five weeks ago was that they gathered 200,000 signatures.

"The count at this point doesn't matter," Alvarez said in deciding not to reveal the number of signatures gathered.

Arpaio issued a statement suggesting that recall organizers aren't revealing the number of signatures they gathered because they are embarrassed by the level of their failure. "This effort failed because the good people of Maricopa County, whom I'm honored to serve, rejected the wrong-headed idea of

overturning an election," Arpaio said.

Arpaio supporters say the sheriff won re-election in November fair and square and that recall organizers shouldn't have been allowed to contest the election simply because they didn't like the outcome.

The recall effort began just weeks after the 80-year-old Republican sheriff started his sixth term in January. His November re-election race marked the second closest contest in his 20-year political career. He beat the closest candidate by 6 percentage points.

Joshua Spivak, a recall expert and senior fellow at Wagner College in New York, said the Arpaio recall effort suffered from too little fundraising, having to collect an unusually high

number of voter signatures for a county race and not having an alternative candidate lined up to run against Arpaio.

"They are running against Joe Arpaio," Spivak said. "But who are they electing?"

Arpaio critics had argued that the sheriff should be booted because his office has failed to adequately investigate more than 400 sex-crimes cases, has cost the county \$25 million in legal settlements over treatment in county jails and his office was found by a federal judge to have systematically racially profiled Latinos in his signature immigration patrols. Critics say the sheriff is more focused on getting publicity for himself than protecting the people. □

Arias prosecutor will consider deal

JACQUES BILLEAUD
Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — The top prosecutor in Phoenix said Thursday that he is confident an impartial jury can be seated to determine the punishment for Jodi Arias, and he is open to input from defense lawyers and the family of the victim about possibly scrapping a new trial in favor of a life sentence for the convicted murderer. Maricopa County Attorney Bill Montgomery discussed the next steps for the Arias case at

a news conference Thursday. A jury convicted her of murder earlier this month but was unable to reach a verdict on whether she should be sentenced to life in prison or the death penalty for the killing of her lover Travis Alexander five years ago. The deadlock means that Montgomery's office will have to put on a new trial to determine her punishment. But it's also possible that lawyers agree to end the case without a trial and give Arias a life sentence with no parole.

Several factors are being weighed by Montgomery's office ahead of a court hearing scheduled for June 20, including feedback from Alexander's family. He declined to say whether defense lawyers had come forward with an offer to take the death penalty off the table, but added that he has "an ethical obligation" to consider such a deal. "That's really the strongest statement or commitment I can make to look at resolving" the case, he said. □




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Cheap leases offered to spur electric car sales in U.S.

TOM KRISHER
AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) — Auto companies are hoping lower lease prices can put a charge into sluggish electric car sales.

Honda announced Thursday that it's slashing the monthly lease cost of its tiny Fit EV by one third, following similar moves by other automakers. Honda also is throwing in other goodies, such as a free home charging station and unlimited mileage.

Electric vehicles once were billed as the answer to high gas prices and dependence on foreign oil. But U.S. oil production is rising and gasoline supplies are abundant. Pump prices have remained relatively stable the past three years, while gas-powered cars have gotten more efficient, making consumers reluctant to give them up.

There's also the worry that an electric car could run out of juice on longer trips. As a result, electric car sales are only a tiny fraction of overall U.S. auto sales. Automakers sold just over 12,000 pure-electric vehicles in the U.S. through April, according to Ward's AutoInfoBank and Tesla Motors. That's less than 1 percent of the 4.97 million cars and trucks sold during the same period. Even a \$7,500 tax credit from the U.S. government that

effectively lowers prices couldn't persuade most car buyers.

Automakers need to create a market for the cars among buyers who won't ordinarily go for the latest technology, said Larry Dominique, a former Nissan Motor Co. product chief.

"The early adopters are kind of phased out of the EV market. To get that broader appeal to the EV, they're doing some pretty aggressive lease deals," said Dominique, now an executive with the TrueCar.com auto pricing website. The sluggish sales have dampened high expectations for electric car use. President Barack Obama has said he wants to put 1 million plug-in electric vehicles on the road by 2015, but with two years left, the nation is far short of that goal.

Still, the cheap leases and a broader selection of models are giving electric vehicles a boost. Sales for the first four months of this year already are 80 percent of last year's total sales of about 15,000.

The added models, though, have multiple automakers competing for a small number of buyers. Automakers generally lose money on electric cars because the technology is so new and the batteries are costly. But they have

been subsidizing sales by lowering prices. Chrysler CEO Sergio Marchionne said earlier this year that his company will lose \$10,000 on every Fiat 500 electric vehicle it sells. Others have reported similar losses.

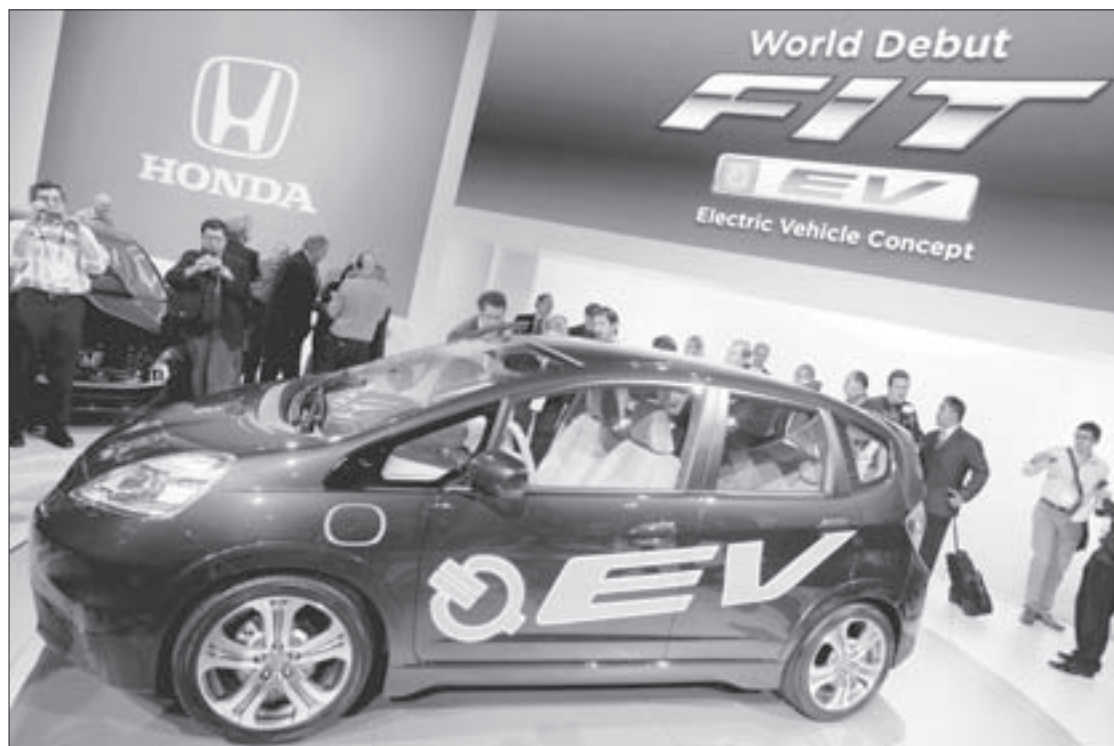
With the Fit EV, Honda is offering a \$259 per month

mileage, free routine maintenance, collision insurance coverage and a free 240-volt home charging station, the company said Thursday. The charging station normally costs \$995. The car buyer must take care of installation.

"Although we feel the Fit

down. That's down from a high of \$369 per month back in 2011.

Both the Spark and Leaf leases run for three years but have 12,000-mile annual limits on the number of miles one can drive without incurring mileage charges.



Honda introduces its new FIT EV Electric Vehicle Concept car at the LA Auto Show Wednesday, in Los Angeles. Auto companies in the U.S. are lowering lease prices for electric cars as they try to jump-start slow sales in a competitive market.
(AP Photo/Damian Dovarganes)

lease, down \$130 from the initial \$389 per month offer when the car went on sale in July of last year. The reduced price starts June 1 and will apply to existing Fit EV leases, Honda said. The three-year lease requires no money down and comes with unlimited

EV offers significant product benefits over other electric vehicles, in order to effectively compete in the EV market, we need a more competitive price," Honda Motor Co. spokeswoman Robyn Eagles said in a statement.

Earlier this month, General Motors Co. said that it would lease the subcompact Spark EV for \$199 per month with \$999 due at signing as it goes on sale in California and Oregon. Nissan is offering a \$199-per-month lease on its Leaf electric car with \$1,999

The lower lease prices put an electric car on par with a comparable small car. For instance, you can lease a gas-powered Fit for \$169 per month for three years, with about \$2,000 down. Automakers can offer the cheap lease deals on electric cars in part because they get the \$7,500 tax credit.

Sales of the subcompact Fit EV have been particularly slow. Through April, Honda has sold or leased only 68 in the U.S. Last year it sold or leased only 93, according to Ward's. □



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Right at Home:

Beer gear on tap for US dads this Father's Day

KIM COOK

Associated Press

Humorist Dave Barry has said, "the greatest invention in the history of mankind is beer. The wheel was also a fine invention, but the wheel does not go nearly as well with pizza."

Ben Franklin considered beer nectar from heaven. "Beer is proof that God wants us to be happy," he said. These days, beer-making and beer-drinking is having a moment, if the hip, hoppy accoutrements being offered by many major retailers this spring is any indication. For a Father's Day gift that hits the spot, consider these beer-related items:

At www.uncommongoods.com, there's a selection of beer soaps from San Francisco soap maker Hiromi. The essences of lager, stout, ale and porter are drawn from the alcohol and then mixed with oils to make a six-pack of heady cleansers. The retailer also has a selection of brewing kits, too. Vermont maple porter, West Coast India Pale Ale, Texas Chipotle amber and Southern bourbon stout kits come with everything you need to get the beer bubbling.

From Urban Brewery in Grand Rapids, Mich., comes a smaller version of the typical 5-gallon brewing kit. The scaled-down size takes up less prep space, so it's a good option for studio apartment dwellers or those with limited basement brewing room. All the ingredients you'll need are included, as well as eight reusable plastic beer bottles and caps. Choose from half a dozen flavors, including



Urban Brewery's 1 gallon Brewery in a Box kit with everything needed to make a gallon of beer (www.urbanbrewery.etsy.com). Smaller than a traditional 5 gallon kit, this is a good option for apartment dwellers and those with limited beer making space.

Blonde Ale, American IPA, Irish Red and Brown Porter. (www.etsy.com/shop/urbanbrewery)

You'll also find a brew kit from the Brooklyn Brew Shop at Williams-Sonoma, including a cook pot, grain, hops and yeast. There's enough in the starter kit to make one batch of beer, and flavors include light Summer Wheat and a Belgian ale. (www.williams-sonoma.com)

From Portland, Ore., a center of the craft beer movement, are the stoneware jugs known as growlers, made by www.portland-growlercompany.com.

At Crate and Barrel, there's a large selection of beer glasses for serving everything from a traditional English pint to craft brews. There's also a tasting set that includes an acacia wood tray and four 5-ounce glasses. Keep track of new beers with a

(AP Photo/Urban Brewery)

Moleskine beer journal that has tabbed sections, pouring tips, a beer glossary and a section for recipes. Or elevate the kegger with a Krups Beer Tender, a dispensing chiller that holds several varieties of kegs including a 5-liter Heineken. Beer temperature can be adjusted, and the contents will stay fresh for 30 days. (www.crateandbarrel.com)

Crafter Mindy Humphrey of Vancouver, Wash., turns recycled beer packaging

into wallets, cuffs, dog collars and luggage tags that she sells on her Etsy site, www.etsy.com/shop/minidysdesigns.

Beer trivia playing cards and links to a gallery of beer tap handles are to be found at www.coolmaterial.com. The cards feature a deck-full of interesting beer information for the aficionado. People can get surprisingly creative with a beer tap handle. The website's got examples made out of everything from video game controllers, antlers, bike gears and light sabers to steampunk-themed accoutrements.

Colorado-based Breck-

enridge Brewery collaborated with Topo Designs on a smart-looking, limited-edition backpack with a detachable, insulated, six-pack bag — handy for hikes, concerts or other outdoor activities where a few brews would be welcome. Included is an opener forged by Machi-Era Co., a Richmond, Va., ironworks. (www.breckbrew.com) On a hot summer day, beer warms quickly; pop a Chillsner into the bottle and your drink will stay frosty. The gadget's an aluminum rod that you freeze first; on one end is a drink-through spout. (www.gentsupplyco.com) □



UncommonGoods beer soaps from San Francisco soapmaker, Hiromi, that come in the essences of lager, ale, porter or stout, mixed with essential oils (www.uncommongoods.com).

(AP Photo/UncommonGoods)

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Iraq:

Alarm grows as forces fail to stem wave of violence

ADAM SCHRECK
Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — Officials in Iraq are growing increasingly concerned over an unabated spike in violence that claimed at least another 33 lives on Thursday and is reviving fears of a return to widespread sectarian fighting.

Authorities announced plans to impose a sweeping ban on many cars across the Iraqi capital starting early Friday in an apparent effort to thwart car bombings, as the United Nations envoy to Iraq warned that "systemic violence is ready to explode."

Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, meanwhile, was shown on state television visiting security checkpoints around Baghdad the previ-

ous night as part of a three-hour inspection tour, underscoring the government's efforts to show it is acting to curtail the bloodshed.

Iraqi security forces are struggling to contain the country's most relentless round of violence since the 2011 U.S. military withdrawal. The rise in violence follows months of protests against the Shiite-led government by Iraq's Sunni minority, many of whom feel they've been marginalized and unfairly treated since the 2003 U.S.-led invasion. Tensions escalated sharply last month after a deadly crackdown by security forces on a Sunni protest camp.

Sunni militants, including al-Qaida, have long targeted Iraq's Shiite majority



Civilians inspect the site of a parked car bomb attack near a popular restaurant in the Ur neighborhood in northern Baghdad, Iraq, Thursday, May 30, 2013. A series of morning bomb explosions in Baghdad and the northern Iraqi city of Mosul on Thursday, killed and wounded dozens of people, police said, in the latest eruption of violence rattling the country.

(AP Photo/Khalid Mohammed)

and government security forces. But Sunni mosques and other targets have also been struck over the past several weeks, raising the possibility that Shiite militias are also growing more active. Several members of the security forces were killed in Thursday's bombings. The attacks also included an assassination attempt by a suicide bomber targeting a provincial governor in the country's Sunni-dominated west.

"These daily patterns of car bomb attacks ... in Baghdad and some other cities (are) really unacceptable for the people of Iraq, who have suffered so much," Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zebari said Thursday.

"It's the government's responsibility to redouble its efforts, to revise its security plans, to contain this wave, to prevent it from sliding into sectarian conflict and war," he added. "That should not happen again." The spike in violence, which has gained momentum since the middle of the month, is raising worries that Iraq is heading back toward the widespread sectarian bloodletting that spiked in 2006 and 2007 and pushed the country to the brink of civil war.

More than 500 people have been killed in May. The month before was Iraq's deadliest since June 2008, according to a United Nations tally that put April's death toll at more than 700. □

Thousands expected at German austerity protest

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)

— Police in Germany's financial capital, Frankfurt, have ringed the European Central Bank with metal barricades a day ahead of anti-capitalist protests expected to draw several thousand people.

Members of the Blockupy group say they will try to prevent employees from reaching the ECB building for several hours Friday to highlight what they say is the bank's role in enforcing the harsh spending cuts introduced to tackle the euro area's three-

year debt crisis. A second demonstration is planned at Deutsche Bank's headquarters nearby.

Several hundred protestors had assembled by Thursday afternoon at a tent camp in a park several miles (kilometers) from Frankfurt's downtown financial district. The ECB says it will remain operational and has taken steps to ensure employee safety.

Blockupy spokeswoman Frauke Distelrath said that the protest was not aimed at bank employees but at its role "as an important

participant in the policies that are impoverishing people in Europe, in the cutbacks that are costing people their ability to make a living."

Blockupy says the so-called "troika" made up of the ECB, the European Commission and the International Monetary Fund is imposing an "austerity dictate" on financially troubled countries. The troika is responsible for making sure Europe's bailed-out countries comply with the terms of their rescue loans, such as sharp budget cuts in an

effort to reduce government deficits. These cutbacks have, in turn, contributed to recessions and high unemployment. So far, Greece, Portugal, Ireland, Cyprus have all received bailout loans while Spain got loans for its banks.

Blockupy includes people who participated in the Occupy movement which protested the role of global capitalism by camping out in cities in a number of countries, as well as critics of globalization and members of other left-wing organizations. □

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11 vanish from Mexico City bar in suspected kidnap

MARK STEVENSON
Associated Press

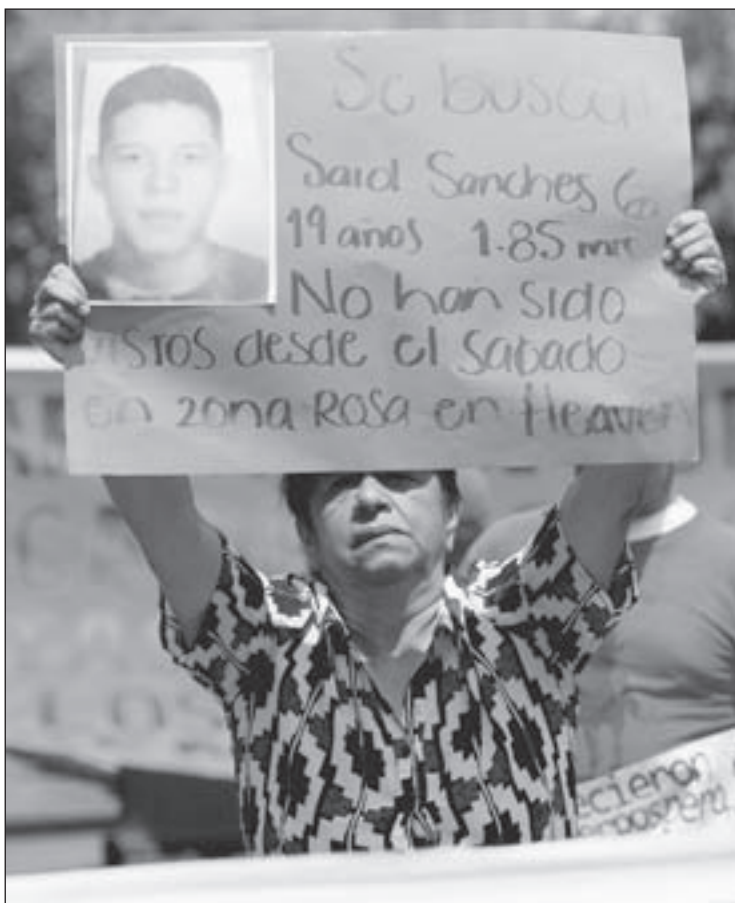
MEXICO CITY (AP) — Eleven young people were brazenly kidnapped in broad daylight from an after-hours

bar in Mexico City's Zona Rosa, a normally calm district of offices, restaurants, drinking spots and dance clubs, anguished relatives said Thursday.

The apparent mass abduction purportedly happened sometime between 10 a.m. and noon on Sunday morning just off the Paseo de la Reforma, the city's main boulevard, near the Angel of Independence monument and only about 1½ blocks from the U.S. Embassy. Demanding that authorities find their loved ones, family members marched Thursday morning from the Interior Department building to the Zocalo, the city's main square. Later they protested outside the bar, which bears no name or other signs.

"How could so many people have disappeared, just like that, in broad daylight?" said Josefina Garcia, mother of Said Sanchez Garcia, 19, her only son. "The police say they don't have them, so what, the earth just opened up and swallowed them?" She said her son wasn't involved in any criminal activity, and worked at a market stall selling beauty products. City prosecutors said they had received 11 missing-person reports, but Garcia said residents of the tough downtown neighborhood of Tepito where the victims

live thought as many as 15 or 16 people could have been abducted. The known missing include six men, most in their 20s, a 16-year-old boy and four young women. While no clear motives had been revealed in the attack, residents of Tepito said there has been a wave of abductions of neighborhood young people in recent months that could be related to organized crime activities. Tepito is the center of black market activities in the city, where guns, drugs, stolen goods and contraband are widely sold. □



A woman holds up a sign with details of her recently disappeared relative during a protest in Mexico City, Thursday, May 30, 2013.

(AP Photo/Eduardo Verdugo)

Jamaica: 4-year-old girl found beheaded

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP)

— The decapitated body of a 4-year-old girl has been pulled out of a hole in the ground in a rural town in northwest Jamaica. Police say an ex-girlfriend of the child's father has been arrested by detectives after reportedly confessing to killing the girl and dumping her body. The unidentified woman allegedly beheaded Natasha Brown in a jealous rage some five months after her relationship with the father

ended.

A local man was lowered into the sinkhole in Duanvale on Wednesday to retrieve the body. Natasha's severed head was also found there.

Neighbors appalled by the brutality of the crime gathered where the body was found.

On Thursday, Youth Minister Lisa Hanna said it was tragic that children "have to face such horrendous realities based on domestic tensions." □

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Venezuela angry Colombia hosts opposition leader Capriles

**CESAR GARCIA
FABIOLA SANCHEZ**

Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

— Venezuelan officials reacted angrily to Colombia's president meeting with Venezuela's opposition leader this week and warned it could severely damage relations between the neighboring countries.

Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos received Venezuelan opposition leader Henrique Capriles, who is trying to build international support for his efforts to overturn an April 14 presidential election he claims was fraudulent. Capriles narrowly lost to governing party candidate Nicolas Maduro.

Venezuelan Foreign Minister Elias Jaua told state TV

that the meeting "will bring a derailment of the good relations that we have." Parliament Speaker Diosdado Cabello compared the meeting to "placing a bomb on the train."

Jaua says Venezuela will re-evaluate its role as an observer at the peace talks in Cuba between Santos' government and Colombia's biggest rebel group. He said Maduro had recalled Venezuela's envoy to the talks for consultations.

"Without a doubt today's situation obliges us to study Venezuela's participation as a facilitator in the peace accord," Jaua said.

Venezuelan officials played an important role in bringing the talks about, and Venezuela has long been a haven for leaders

of the rebel group in the negotiations, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia.

The Havana talks recessed Sunday after both sides

and attended his inauguration last month. Colombian officials had no immediate comment on Venezuela's objections to his meeting with Capriles.



Senate President Roy Barreras, right, speaks to Venezuela's opposition leader Henrique Capriles, left, during a press conference at the Congress in Bogota, Colombia.

(AP Photo/Carlos Julio Martinez)

said they had reached agreement on agrarian reform. They are to resume negotiations June 11.

Santos has recognized Maduro's election victory

During a visit to Colombia's parliament, Capriles said he didn't care "what this illegitimate government says," calling its criticism "mosquito bites."

Capriles claims Maduro, the anointed successor of the late President Hugo Chavez, stole the election through fraud, voter intimidation and abuse of government resources.

The opposition leader described as a "farce" an audit that will review only the results from electronic voting machines. Capriles also wanted an examination of voter registries and fingerprints to find out if all the votes cast were legitimate. "In Venezuela, in my beloved homeland, on April 14 they stole the election, they stole them not through an automated system, they stole it like you steal elections when you put in more votes than the people want," Capriles said.

He has asked the Supreme Court to annul the election result, which is considered highly unlikely because the panel is dominated by pro-government justices. □

Hollande, Merkel pushing for eurozone boss

PARIS (AP) — France and Germany are pushing to have a full-time official lead the economic and financial policies of the 17-country euro currency bloc.

Currently, the policies are agreed on during regular meetings of the eurozone's finance ministers — collectively known as the Eurogroup. One of the 17 ministers is appointed to be the Eurogroup president — Dutchman Jeroen Dijsselbloem has the job now. But as the financial crisis tore through the eurozone over the past years, the job became more important and time-consuming.

French President Francois Hollande and German Chancellor Angela Merkel said after a meeting in Paris that there needs to be a

central figure to lead the Eurogroup.

Speaking Thursday at a joint press conference, Hollande said he and Merkel "are in agreement that there should be more eurozone summits, with a full-time Eurogroup president with strengthened powers."

"We need more economic policy coordination, especially in the Eurogroup," Merkel said.

The Eurogroup is one of several institutions that help determine public policy in the European Union, the wider 27-country bloc that includes 10 countries that do not use the euro.

The European Commission is the EU's executive arm, a bureaucracy based in Brussels that designs and proposes laws.

The European Council is the gathering of EU heads of state and government.

Meanwhile, Hollande admitted that France needs to complete structural economic reforms to put it back on the path of growth, a day after the European Commission urged France to cut red tape, implement pension and labor market reforms, and strengthen competition in the services and energy sectors.

"Reforms have to be done ... All these reforms, the details, the procedures, the way to implement them, are up to the government," he said.

French president had initially been critical of the European Commission's recommendations. □

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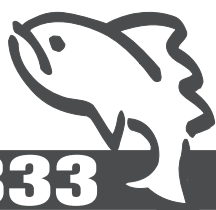


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Haiti fire at port wounds up to 31 people; no deaths

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)

— A government building in Haiti's biggest port in downtown Port-au-Prince caught fire Thursday and at least 31 people were injured in the blaze, an official said. There were no deaths. Gue Verlien, a municipal coordinator for Haiti's Civil Protection Department, said those hurt were taken to two government-run hospitals and a medical center run by the international humanitarian group Doctors Without Borders. Some of the burns were severe, and some people were being treated for asphyxiation.

A preliminary investigation showed the fire somehow ignited through a combustible combination of Clorox and fertilizer, Verlien said. Nadia Lochard, another official from the Civil Protection Department, said

police were still opening an investigation to learn the exact cause of the fire.

An Associated Press reporter Thursday afternoon saw about a dozen firefighters trying to beat back the blaze that had engulfed the two-story building that houses an agency overseeing Haiti's maritime industry at the national port, otherwise known as the Maritime and Navigation Service of Haiti.

A market next door that sells used clothes also caught fire, and several trucks and motorcycles parked outside were burned.

Witness Abel Wilson said he heard a loud bang just before the fire broke out. He also said he saw medical workers treat at least two people for severe burn wounds before an ambulance took them to a hospital for further treatment. □



Firefighters work to extinguish a massive fire to a government building at Port Market in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Thursday, May 30, 2013. The building in Haiti's biggest port in downtown Port-au-Prince caught fire Thursday and burned at least 31 people, an official said.

(AP Photo/ Dieu Nalio Chery)

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Amid Iran-Saudi tensions:

OPEC ministers meet to determine production levels

GEORGE JAHN
Associated Press

VIENNA (AP) — Once the symbol of oil dominance, OPEC faces new challenges as its members gather for a ministerial meeting this week on how much crude to pump.

For the 12 oil ministers from countries ranging from Venezuela to Nigeria and Iran, the formal focus of this most recent get-together is to determine production levels. The consensus in the markets is that ministers will opt to maintain the status quo as prices for U.S. benchmark oil have traded in a narrow range a few dollars above \$90 a barrel. Brent crude, the reference point for many international oil varieties, is just above the \$100 mark some countries OPEC exporters consider the acceptable minimum.

With prices largely at acceptable levels, the ministers are expected to maintain the cartel's target at 30 million barrels a day.



Iran's Minister of Petroleum Rostam Ghasemi, right, and Iran's Ambassador to the International Atomic Energy Agency, IAEA, Ali Asghar Soltanieh talk to journalists as they arrive at a hotel for the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, OPEC, conference in Vienna, Austria, Thursday, May 30, 2012.

(AP Photo/Hans Punz)

However, members may be asked to cut back on overproduction, now said to be running at nearly 500,000 barrels a day.

On his arrival in Vienna on Tuesday, Saudi Oil Minister Ali Naimi described the status quo as "the best environment for the market."

For analysts at Commerzbank in Frankfurt, that was a clear signal there would be little or no change in policy — the Saudis are the main driver of OPEC policy. As such, said a Commerzbank note, it is "unlikely that Friday's OPEC meeting will result in any change to production policy."

Reinforcing that prediction, Libyan Oil Minister Abdelbari al-Arussi told reporters on Thursday that Friday's meeting will "maintain the production level and prices."

Beyond prices and output, though, the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries faces other more complex issues, ranging from the ramp up in shale

oil production in the U.S. and a potentially destabilizing spat between Saudi Arabia and Iran.

The rise in shale oil production in the U.S., the world's biggest economy, has an impact on OPEC as the country remains a main market for OPEC. Shale oil, which is extracted from rocks using heat, helped lift the U.S.'s total output up to a daily 7.4 million barrels per day this month.

The Paris-based International Energy Agency says total production could top 9 million barrels a day by 2018, which would mean near self-sufficiency for the U.S. as well as significantly less dependence on OPEC imports. It would also swell the U.S. influence on prices that OPEC polices have largely determined in the past.

Even so, OPEC will continue to be a major player on global crude supply as it still produces about a third of the world's oil. IEA chief Maria van der Hoeven said earlier this month that the organization "will remain an essential part of the oil mix for as long as we can tell."

Still, already frayed OPEC unity stands to further suffer as a result of fears of less dependency on its product.

OPEC powerhouse Saudi Arabia and its Gulf partners have the strength to adjust to cheaper oil prices. Naimi, the Saudi minister, recently said there was no need to fear new supplies because "there is enough (demand) to go around" for all oil exporters.

Others, such as Iran, Venezuela and some African producers, disagree, saying they need oil above \$100 a barrel to do business. Angola is among OPEC members that could suffer from less U.S. foreign oil dependency. But Angolan Oil Minister Jose Maria Botelho de Vasconcelos shrugged off any potential damage from that scenario Thursday, telling reporters that "there are other markets." □

UN calls for end to extreme poverty by 2030

EDITH M. LEDERER
Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — A high-level U.N. panel recommended an ambitious roadmap Thursday to tackle the world's major challenges, from climate change to equality for women, with a key goal of ending extreme poverty everywhere by 2030.

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon appointed the panel last year to recommend a new development agenda after the U.N. Millennium Development Goals, or MDGs, expire in 2015. World leaders agreed in 2000 on anti-poverty goals including cutting extreme poverty by half, halting the HIV/AIDS pandemic and increasing the number of people with access to clean water and sanitation.

The extreme poverty and clean water goals have been met, but many oth-

er of the goals probably won't be achieved.

The 27-member U.N. panel expressed "deep respect" for the MDGs, saying: "The 13 years since the millennium have seen the fastest reduction in poverty in human history: there are half a billion fewer people living below an international poverty line of \$1.25 a day. Child death rates have fallen by more than 30 percent, with about three million children's lives saved each year compared to 2000. Deaths from malaria have fallen by one quarter."

The panel proposed a major expansion of the MDGs — with a special focus on the more than one billion people still living on less than \$1.25 a day — to tackle the causes of poverty such as weak government institutions, corruption, a lack of basic freedoms, conflict and hunger.

The panel's report will kickstart two years of discussions and negotiations on what the development agenda after 2015 should be.

The co-chairs, Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and British Prime Minister David Cameron, called it a "bold and practical" proposal with 12 goals and 54 targets.

"Our vision and our responsibility are to end extreme poverty in all its forms in the context of sustainable development and to have in place the building blocks of sustained prosperity for all," the panel said.

The recommended goals include ensuring food security, sustainable energy and sustainable natural resources management; creating jobs and promoting economic growth and good governance;

achieving gender equality and ensuring stable and peaceful societies. Targets include promoting free speech and the rule of law, ending child marriage, protecting property rights, encouraging entrepreneurship and ensuring that every child has at least a primary school education. Mexico's former foreign relations secretary Patricia Espinoza, a panel member, said the vision for 2030 won't be achieved "if the world continues to do business like we have been doing for the last decades."

U.S. panelist John Podesta, who served as President Bill Clinton's chief of staff and co-chaired President Barack Obama's transition team, told a press conference that one of the MDGs' failings was that it didn't include proposals to promote the peace and security that world leaders talked about in 2000. □



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ORANJESTAD - The Gold Mine Ranch Horseback Riding Tours is proud to announce to have received a Tripadvisor Certificate of Excellence award for the year 2013. This prestigious award places the Gold Mine Ranch in the top-performing 10% of all businesses worldwide on Tripadvisor.com and is only given to businesses that consistently earn high ratings from Tripadvisor travelers. The Gold Mine Ranch is honored to receive the Tripadvisor Certificate of Excellence award, two years

in a row (2012 & 2013). It is with great honor that they accept this award. The Gold Mine Ranch family and staff work with great motivation, dedication and perseverance to provide the best horseback riding adventures on Aruba. The Gold Mine Ranch is a family operated company that aims to offer the best horseback expeditions covering over 7 panoramic views, including white sand beaches, Hidden Valley and Lagoon, and the Gold Mill Ruins. The expeditions are unique horseback ad-

ventures, not to be compared with any other tours in Aruba due to the guest friendly staff, well trained horses, unique location and the only expedition of its kind that only the Gold Mine Ranch can provide to families, friends and loved ones. The expeditions are suitable for beginners to advanced riders. The Gold Mine Ranch would like to thank all their guests who continue to support them throughout the years and all Tripadvisor reviewers for taking the time to write their com-



ments on Tripadvisor.com. They are committed their promise to provide exciting horseback adventures,

not just trail rides. "To all our guests, thank you for letting us be the highlight of your vacation!" □

In a moving and heartfelt gathering;

The Salamander Group presents quarterly donation checks

Oranjestad – A congenial gathering at the new Caribbean Clothing and Co. on the Main Street, Caya Betico Croes 32, convened representatives of eleven local not-for-profit foundations, for the purposed of check presentations.

The presentations were made by key Salamander Group associates, as the funds donated that evening resulted from their endeavors, under the company's Tikkun Olam Corporate Responsibility program. The program, named after an ancient Kabala concept which translates from Hebrew as "the Repair of the World," supports local foundations working on behalf of kids, adults and the elderly.

The way the fund-raising works is the following: Each client shopping at the Salamander Group stores is asked to choose between a number of good causes, on the receiving end of a percentage of his purchase.

Donations are presented quarterly, and regardless



of the state of the world's economy or the state of the island's economy, the Salamander Group associates and its members of management forge on, collecting funds for causes they strongly believe in, in accordance to their Repair of the World philosophy.

The gathering at Caribbean Clothing and Co. explained Managing Director Jodi Tobman, also served to celebrate those men and women who volunteer for the foundations and work so hard for the community, making Tikkun Olam, an everyday reality here.

Tikkun Olam is well-established

at the Salamander Group, with stores such as T.H. Palm & Company at Playa Linda Beach Resort, and the Caribbean Queen at the Palm Beach Plaza Mall, leading the fund-raising drive in collaboration with more than 50 multi-national associates, who often forgo raises, and newer equipment in order to keep the program going.

While the company has been fund raising since 2004, Tikkun Olam was formulated and instituted in 2007. We are proud to donate a percentage of every purchase to support Aruba's charities; it is our way of expressing our grati-

tude to the Aruban community, which we are so happy to be a part of, says Jodi. Many of us came for faraway lands to live here, and now feel mutually responsible for the less fortunate members of our island.

The evening's check recipients were as following:

Fundacion Autismo Aruba, represented by Dilma Arends; Koningin Wilhelmina Kanker Fonds, represented by Ivi Hernandez & Bojoura Richard; Stichting Edmund E. Harms, represented by Julisca Harms; Telefon pa Hubentud, represented by Nemesis Trappenberg & Sherman Millian; The Clown Doctors represented by Rona Coster; The Pancake Gallery, operating Art Rules Aruba, represented by Ira & Ayra Kip's mom; The Alzheimer Foundation, represented by Robby Croes; The Aruba International Arts Foundation, represented by Stan Kuiperi and Ateliers' 89, represented by Elvis Lopez. Two other organizations, Fundacion pa nos Grandinan Centro Kibrahacha, and Fundacion pa Hende Muhe den Dificultad, were given donations in absentia.

The evening's best part was the moving, honest and direct dialogue by donation recipients who each talked about their foundation, and the innate challenges and hardship that go hand in hand with volunteer work, and the resulting sense of satisfaction this kind of sacrifice inevitably delivers.

Dilma described the efforts made by Fundacion Autismo Aruba, to educate and enlighten the public about the condition; Ivi & Bojoura explained about the Cancer Foundations labor to establish support systems for patients and their families; Julisca reported on the hospice care provided to terminally ill patients at no cost, thanks to fund raising efforts such as Tikkun Olam; Nemesis and Sherman told

the forum about the free help line available to more than 8000 kids ages 8 to 18, with adult volunteers ready to listen every day during after-school hours, and Rona talked about the Clown Doctors visiting sick kids and dementia patients, attempting to provide companionship and companion. Mrs. Kip talked about her daughters and their initiative resulting in a summer camp for artist children; Robby talked about Alzheimer on Aruba; Stan weighed in with his dream to build a children's museum here and Elvis shared about his successes in taking kids off the street and into art programs.

The special evening truly brought recognition to the foundations, and celebrated the success of the Salamander Group with its Tikkun Olam idea, thinking globally and acting locally. Attending the event on behalf of the Salamander Group, associates Gabriela Ribbink, Del de Guzman, Digna Torres, Nilo Arcilla, Rowena Banal, Lina Sarmiento, Julie Partosemito, Isha Arana, Janella Gamarra, Karin Kalter and David Archer, who reiterated their commitment to social, educational and health projects.

The evening was organized by the company's new Sales and Marketing Administrator Isha Arana, and was catered by the Funchi Gals who presented a fine selection of home-made, organic, hors d'oeuvres.

Remember that when you visit the stores, T.H. Palm & Company, The Coconut Trading, The Lazy Lizard, The Juggling Fish, Caribbean Queen and the Caribbean Clothing Co., you are in fact serving your community, and making the work of Aruba's unsung heroes, the volunteers working for the not-for-profit-foundations, easier.

In her closing remarks Managing Director Jodi Tobman thanked the media for its support, and thanked her staffers for embracing her vision of a better world.



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Beach

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from USA
Guest at the
Playa Linda
She is on
vacation
having fun in.

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Aqua Grill hosts a series of Concierge Nights



cierge Night, "to be able to soak in the ambiance, see the dining space, taste the food, and interact with the servers helps me better

serve my guests." Pictured here are some of the local resort concierges enjoying cocktails in Aqua Grill's lounge. Aqua Grill, located

in the heart of Palm Beach, is open nightly. For reservations call 586-5900, or ask your resort concierge to assist in your reservation. □

Dine & Jazz ~ SMITH'S STYLE



PALM BEACH – One of a vacationer's most trusted sources for recommendations on dining and entertainment options on the island is a concierge. Relied on for their knowledge of our local products, our resort concierges' advice can literally make or break a vacation experience. Aqua Grill, the island's internationally praised seafood restaurant, understands the value of a concierge's recommen-

dation, and annually hosts our island concierges for an evening of sampling the award-winning cuisine and topnotch service they offer. "For me," explained one concierge, "I feel most comfortable giving a first-hand recommendation...when a guest returns from a great dining experience, it is very gratifying to know that I helped plan a memorable part of their vacation in Aruba." Said another concierge during Aqua Grill's Con-



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L.G. SMITH'S

STEAK & CHOP HOUSE



"Bugaloe Welcomes Loyal Guests" David and Brandi Silva

PALM BEACH- Bugaloe Beach Bar & Grill are welcoming back David and Brandi Silva from Turlock California. They have been coming to Aruba for 3 years. They came to Aruba on a cruise in 2005 and stayed at Bugaloe drinking, swimming and having an incredible day. They wanted to go on vacation in 2010 so they decided to come back to Aruba to visit the amazing bar Bugaloe. They became friends with everyone at Bugaloe and made friends with a family from North Carolina so they come back every year in May to see everybody. Their favorite menu item is the "frikandel" a Dutch snack and the Bugaloe fries. Their favorite drink is the Balashi Chill. Their car license plate is "Bugaloe" and last year with Bugaloe's bartender Martijn they got matching Bugaloe sun tattoos. This year they came to Aruba to celebrate their 5th anniversary together with the Bugaloe crew they made it an unforgettable one! David says: in Aruba we have made friends for life both the bureaus from north Carolina and our bartender friends at Bugaloe and friends at the Marriott, we will come back every year in May! The Bugaloe crew would like to thank David and Brandi for all the unforgettable nights and hope to see them more often. □



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CASINO AND SHOPS



Washington Nationals' Ryan Zimmerman hits his third consecutive homer of the night, in the fifth inning of an interleague baseball game against the Baltimore Orioles on May 29, 2013 in Baltimore. Associated Press

Zimmerman hits 3 HRs, but Orioles rally past Nats

The Associated Press

BALTIMORE (AP) — Chris Davis had four hits from four at bats with two home runs as the Baltimore Orioles overcame three homers by Ryan Zimmerman to beat the Washington Nationals 9-6 Wednesday.

In a wild game before 39,129 fans, each team slugged four home runs and the Orioles rallied from a four-run deficit against one of the best pitchers in the game.

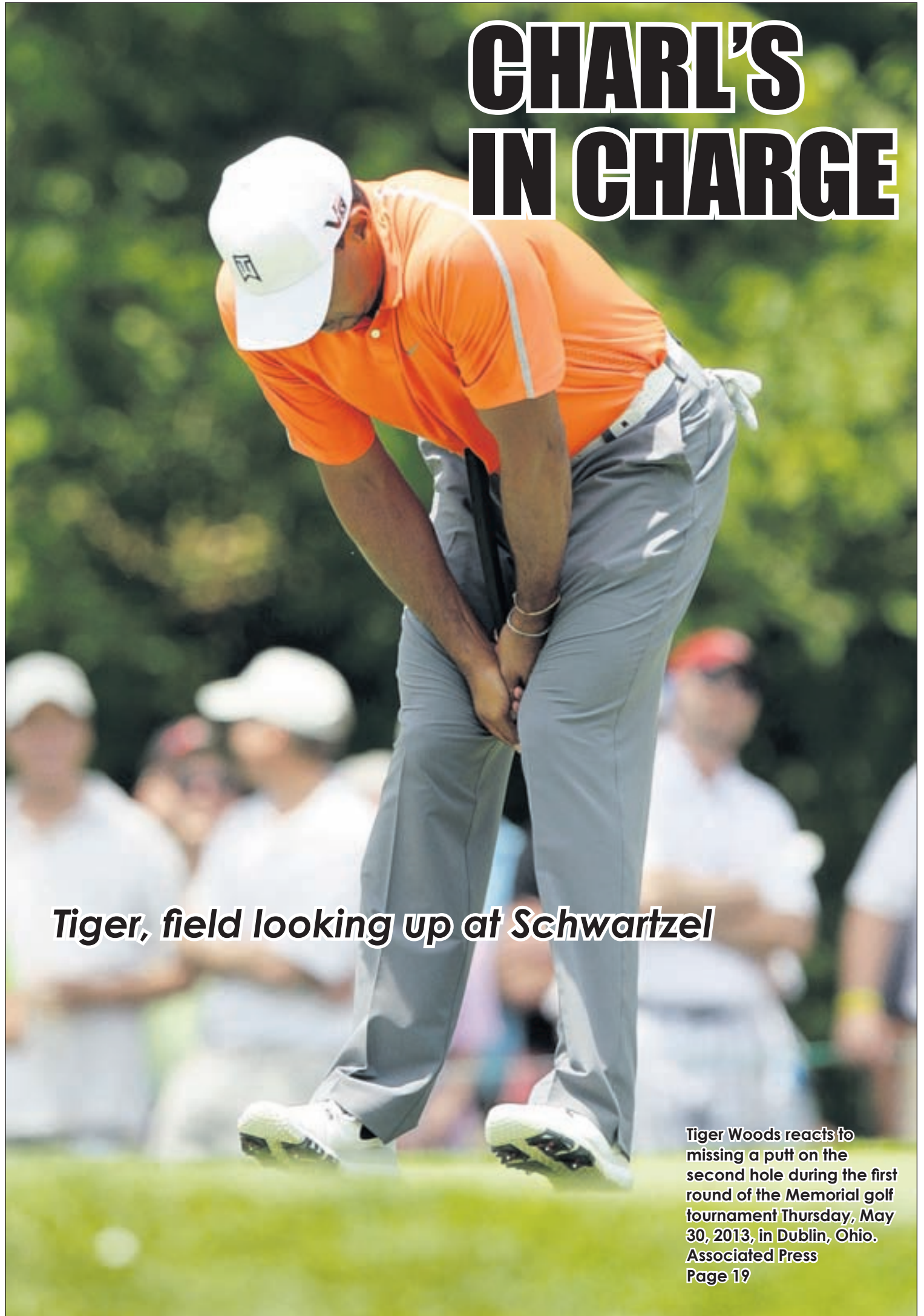
Zimmerman hit solo homers in the first and fourth innings before adding a two-run drive in the fifth, all off Chris Tillman. He got a chance at a fourth homer but struck out in the seventh.

Davis hit a solo drive in the fourth and capped a six-run seventh with his major league-leading 19th homer, a two-run shot off Tyler Clippard.

Johnson (1-1) pitched 2 1-3 innings and Jim Johnson worked a perfect ninth for his 16th save.

Continued on page 18

CHARL'S IN CHARGE



Tiger, field looking up at Schwartzel

Tiger Woods reacts to missing a putt on the second hole during the first round of the Memorial golf tournament Thursday, May 30, 2013, in Dublin, Ohio. Associated Press
Page 19

2011 champ Li Na loses to American at French Open

STEVEN WINE
AP Sports Writer

PARIS (AP) — Bethanie Mattek-Sands skipped backward across the clay, her wagging tongue framed by a smile as she savored yet another surprising victory for American tennis at the French Open.

Rejuvenated by a rain delay, Mattek-Sands came from a set down to beat 2011 champion Li Na on 5-7, 6-3, 6-2 Thursday in the second round at Roland Garros.

Following the second interruption of the match, Mattek-Sands swept seven consecutive games from Li to take a 5-0 lead in the final set. She served out the victory with the sun shining as rain fell.

"She's a champion, and I had to play some of my best tennis ever to beat her," Mattek-Sands said. "I'm really proud of myself that I was able to close out the match the way I did."

In men's play, six-time major champion Novak Djokovic gestured at threatening clouds between points, trying to keep them away, and managed to finish his drubbing of Guido Pella, 6-2, 6-0, 6-2. With five more victories Djokovic would become the eighth man to complete a career Grand Slam. No. 3 Victoria Azarenka, the Australian Open champion each of the past two years, beat Annika Beck 6-4, 6-3.

Ten singles matches were postponed, including seven-time champion Rafael Nadal against Martin Kližan, and the all-American encounter between John Isner and Ryan Harrison. Defending champion Maria Sharapova led 19-year-old Eugenie Bouchard 6-2, 4-2 when their match was interrupted by rain shortly before dark and suspended until Friday.

Mattek-Sands matched her best effort at Roland Garros by reaching the round of 32. She failed to qualify for the Australian Open in January and arrived in Paris with a modest 10-8 record this year and a No. 67 ranking.

"I was a little bit surprised today the way she's hitting," Li said. "Well done for her."

Li was ranked sixth. Since winning her lone major title, she has lost in the first or second round at four of the eight major events.

Mattek-Sands' best Grand Slam showing came at Wimbledon back in 2008, when she reached the fourth round. The 28-year-old Minnesota native is better known for her loud outfits, such as the one she



Bethanie Mattek-Sands, of the U.S., serves the ball to China's Li Na during their second round match of the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium Thursday, May 30, 2013 in Paris.

Associated Press

wore at the finish against Li — a long-sleeve top over a neon tank, a black skirt, black sneakers and — as the piece de resistance — black knee-high socks.

"I haven't worn anything too crazy on court for a few years now," Mattek-Sands said.

"I feel like my racket has been doing a lot of the talking."

Playing on cozy court 1, nicknamed the bullring, she appeared on the verge of defeat in the second set when rain prompted a 90-minute delay. She returned whacking winners, including a picturesque crosscourt backhand lob that gave her a break point and control of the final set. Former No. 1 Jelena Jankovic won 12 consecu-

tive games to beat the rain and Garbine Muguruza. Jankovic fell behind early but rallied past Muguruza 6-3, 6-0 shortly before showers interrupted the first matches of the day on 12 other courts.

A brief dry spell allowed 2010 runner-up Sam Stosur to complete a second-round victory over Kristina Mladenovic, 6-4, 6-3, before the rain resumed.

With temperatures in the mid-50s, Jankovic took the court wearing pink leggings and a long-sleeve pink shirt. She looked uncomfortable at the start, losing the first three games, then won the rest after adjusting to the strokes of Muguruza, a 19-year-old Spaniard.

"She's a great up and coming player," Jankovic said. "She hits the ball very hard, very flat. And especially in the beginning of the match she gave me a lot of trouble. I figured out the way to play against her, and I think I did pretty well."

Jankovic won with steady play from the baseline, while the big-swinging Muguruza committed 29 unforced errors. Jankovic, seeded 18th, is a three-time semifinalist at Roland Garros. She'll next play 2011 U.S. Open champion Stosur. □

INTERLEAGUE

Continued from page 17

Baltimore trailed 6-3 in the seventh before rallying against Jordan Zimmermann (8-3), who gave up seven runs and 10 hits in six-plus innings. He came in with a 1.71 ERA and a streak of 15 straight starts allowing three runs or less.

CUBS 9, WHITE SOX 3

CHICAGO (AP) — Dioner Navarro had the first three-homer game of his career, connecting from both sides of the plate at Wrigley Field to lead the Cubs over the White Sox.

Navarro had never homered more than once in a game, but he got his swing going while driving in a career-high six runs and scoring four times. He hit a



solo homer in the second to break a 1-all tie and added a two-run shot off John Danks (0-1) in the fourth. He then sent a towering shot to the street beyond the right-field bleachers for a three-run homer off Brian Omogrosso in the seventh.

Scott Feldman (5-4) went six innings, allowing two runs and six hits. He struck out seven without a walk and improved to 5-1 in his past seven outings.

CARDINALS 5, ROYALS 3

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Pinch hitter Daniel Descalso hit a two-

run single with the bases loaded to break an eighth-inning deadlock and help St. Louis rally past scuffling Kansas City.

Luis Mendoza got his first career hit and RBI and held the Cardinals to a run in 5 2-3 innings before the bullpen failed for the Royals, who have lost a season-worst eight in a row. Matt Holliday and Carlos Beltran homered for the Cardinals, who have won seven of eight and lead the majors with a 35-17 record. Randy Choate (1-0) got the last out in the eighth and Edward Mujica finished for his 17th save in 17 chances.

Beltran hit his 12th homer off Aaron Crow (0-1) to open the eighth.

METS 9, YANKEES 4

NEW YORK (AP) — Slumping

infielders Ike Davis and Ruben Tejada sparked a five-run first inning that kept the Mets sailing along in this surprising Subway Series with a victory over the Yankees.

Tejada hit a leadoff single, Davis drove in two runs and the Mets won with Jeremy Hefner (1-5) on the mound for the first time all season. They've taken three in a row from their crosstown rivals for their first four-game winning streak of the year. Yankees starter David Phelps (3-3) got only one out — and perhaps he wasn't completely healthy. The right-hander, who had unusual trouble with his command, left his previous outing after he was hit on the right forearm by a line drive. □

Schwartzel takes early lead at Memorial

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

DUBLIN, Ohio (AP) — Charl Schwartzel didn't want to see a good round go to waste. A birdie on his final hole Thursday in the Memorial allowed him to feel good about his game, and it gave him the early lead. Schwartzel bounced back from a double bogey on the par-3 eighth hole with one last birdie for a 7-under 65. That gave him a one-shot lead over Scott Piercy among the early starters on a muggy day.

"The birdie on the last definitely will make my evening a lot better," Schwartzel said.

Tiger Woods, the defending champion and a five-time winner, was among those playing in the afternoon.

Piercy is one of the longer hitters on tour, so it would seem his game would be a good fit for the Memorial. He hasn't had much luck, so he decided to scale back off the tee and 3-wood where he typically would hit driver to take it over the bunkers. Piercy had a 66, his best score in 10 rounds at Muirfield Village.

Rory McIlroy, meanwhile, might be headed for another short week at the



Charl Schwartzel, of South Africa, tees off the fourth hole during the first round of the Memorial golf tournament Thursday, May 30, 2013, in Dublin, Ohio.

tournament Jack Nicklaus built.

McIlroy opened with a birdie and that was as good as it got for the world's No. 2 player. He four-putted the par-3 12th for a double bogey, had a three-putt on No. 7 and ended his round by missing a 4-foot birdie. McIlroy had a 78.

"I don't really have many explanations for this," McIlroy said.

Only eight players broke 70 in the morning on a well-conditioned course with fast greens, and it figured to get even tougher in the

afternoon with hot weather, and greens not quite as smooth after all that morning traffic. Schwartzel took advantage with two stretches of four straight birdies. He was at 8-under with two holes to play when he missed the green on No. 8 with an 8-iron and wound up on the downward slope of the sand. He tried to get extra spin on a difficult shot and sent it over the green, and then failed to get up and down.

The double bogey didn't stay with him for long. The former Masters champion

holed a 12-foot birdie putt and was back in the lead when Piercy, who finished up his round on the 18th hole, made bogey.

The birdie was important, not just for the early lead, but to get as much out of such a great round of golf. That's not to suggest that if he had made par on the last hole he would have been ready to retire from the game.

"It would still be OK," Schwartzel said. "It's really when you've played that well and you're thinking you get these few rounds a

year where you really strike it well and you're making lots of birdies and you walk off with your 8-, 9-under. And today was one of those where I really did flush it. And you're think maybe another birdie, and then get knocked back with a little 8-iron making double." Josh Teater, Russell Henley and Kyle Stanley were at 67, while Charlie Wi, Matt Jones and Michael Thompson had 69.

Piercy hit one of the longest drives on the 18th hole last year, leaving him a flip wedge to the green. Muirfield Village is a big golf course, with some of the widest fairways on tour and thick rough — it should be thick for fairways that generous. But hitting driver never really worked for Piercy, so he decided to go with 3-wood, and he stuck with his plan. He still had relatively short irons into the green, and he knew he was onto something when he ran off five straight birdies on the front nine.

"I thought I'd hit a lot of 3-woods today and open up the fairways and allow me to get at some pins and knock them on the greens and make some putts," he said. "Maybe I'm getting older." □

Adam Nelson to get 2004 gold in shot put

STEPHEN WILSON

AP Sports Writer

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia (AP) — Nine years later, Adam Nelson can finally call himself an Olympic gold medalist. The American shot putter was officially elevated on Thursday to champion in the shot put from the 2004 Athens Games, taking the gold that was stripped from a Ukrainian rival for doping. The International Olympic Committee reallocated the medals from Athens events in which athletes were retroactively disqualified after their doping samples were retested and came back positive for steroids.

Nelson finished second in Athens behind Yuriy Bi-

lonog, who was stripped of the gold medal by the IOC in December after his reanalyzed sample tested positive for oxandrolone.

The IOC held off changing the medals until the results were officially adjusted by the International Association of Athletics Federations. On Thursday, the IOC board announced that Nelson had been bumped up to the gold.

The medal will be given to the U.S. Olympic Committee to present to Nelson. Nelson and Bilonog finished with the same best throw in Athens, but the Ukrainian was declared the winner because his second-best attempt was longer. It was

the first time an Olympic field event was decided by a second-best mark.

Nelson recently retired from competition and is living in Athens, Georgia, where he's opening a sports performance center and volunteering his time to help raise awareness for rare diseases.

"It's not just a victory for me, but a victory for the system," Nelson said in December when Bilonog was stripped of the medal. "I can't dwell on what happened or didn't happen eight years ago. I can only look forward to what the next phase in life brings. At least now I can do that with a gold medal." □



In this Aug. 20, 2004, file photo, silver medalist Adam Nelson, left, of the United States, and, gold medalist Yuriy Bilonog, of Ukraine, pose on the podium after the presentation ceremony in the men's shot put at the 2004 Olympic Games in the Olympic Stadium in Athens.

Associated Press

NHL Playoffs Roundup

Seabrook's OT goal lifts Blackhawks past Red Wings

JAY COHEN

AP Sports Writer

CHICAGO (AP) — Brent Seabrook sent a wrist shot past goalie Jimmy Howard's glove 3:35 into overtime to give the Chicago Blackhawks a 2-1 victory over the Detroit Red Wings in Game 7 of their second-round playoff series on Wednesday.

The Blackhawks, who had the best record in the NHL regular season, rallied from a 3-1 series deficit to reach the Western Conference finals against the defending Stanley Cup champion Los Angeles Kings.

For just the second time in NHL history, the final four teams remaining in the playoffs are the four most recent Stanley Cup winners. Chicago captured the Cup in 2010.

Seabrook picked up a loose puck and skated in on Howard through the middle of the ice, with Detroit defenseman Niklas Kronwall in front of him. His shot hit Kronwall's leg before it sailed into the left side of the net for the defenseman's first goal of the



Chicago Blackhawks defenseman Brent Seabrook celebrates with his teammate after scoring a game winning goal during the overtime in Game 7 of the NHL hockey Stanley Cup Western Conference semifinals against the Detroit Red Wings, Wednesday, May 29, 2013, in Chicago. Blackhawks won 2-1. Associated Press

postseason.

"I was just trying to step up," Seabrook said. "The coaches have been on me all year to get up and jump into the play."

The sellout crowd of 22,103

roared as Seabrook skated over to the boards and was mobbed by his delirious teammates.

Howard put his arm around Kronwall, who was down on one knee, and tried

to console him while the Blackhawks celebrated.

It was quite a change from the end of the third period, when the Blackhawks thought they had scored the go-ahead goal. But it was waved off with less than 2 minutes remaining by referee Stephen Walkom, who called a pair of penalties behind the play.

Henrik Zetterberg scored the equalizing goal in the third period for Detroit, which beat second-seeded Anaheim in seven games in the first round. Howard finished with 33 saves.

Pavel Datsyuk was held without a point, closing out an ineffective series for the Russian star.

Chicago made it to the conference finals for the first time since it won the title in 2010 and will host Los Angeles in Game 1 on Saturday night. The Kings advanced with a 2-1 victory over San Jose in Game 7 on Tuesday night.

Pittsburgh will host Boston in the opener of the East finals on Saturday.

Chicago was one of the favorites to win the Stanley Cup when the playoffs began, storming to the Presidents' Trophy during the lockout-shortened season. The Blackhawks then boosted their credentials with a five-game win over Minnesota in the first round and a convincing 4-1 victory against the Red Wings in the series opener.

But Howard and Detroit responded with three straight victories, pushing Chicago to the edge of elimination. The frustrated Blackhawks held a team meeting the day after Game 4, where the seeds were planted for their improbable comeback.

They felt one win would turn it around, and they were right.

Three victories later — in which the Blackhawks outscored the Red Wings 10-5 after managing just two goals in Games 2-4 — made them the 25th team to win a series after trailing 3-1.

It was the first time in franchise history they have made such a comeback. □

West, Stephenson, James fined for flopping

BRIAN MAHONEY
AP Basketball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Miami's LeBron James and



Indiana Pacers' David West (21) puts up a shot against Miami Heat's Dwyane Wade (3) during the second half Game 3 of the NBA Eastern Conference basketball finals in Indianapolis, Sunday, May 26, 2013.

Associated Press

Indiana's David West and Lance Stephenson were all fined \$5,000 by the NBA on Thursday for violating the league's anti-flopping policy.

James and West were penalized for the same play during a messy Game 4 of the Eastern Conference finals. James spun and fell and West tumbled toward the baseline during what looked like a poorly choreographed dance routine as the NBA's MVP defended the Indiana forward. Stephenson was fined for exaggerating the contact after a slight elbow from Ray Allen following his basket, staggering back toward the sideline after making a short jumper.

The NBA began fining players this year for the act of trying to fool referees into calling fouls when there

had been limited contact. The Pacers' 99-92 victory on Tuesday was filled with such plays and marked by a combined 55 personal fouls.

Steve Kerr, the five-time NBA champion working the game as a TV analyst, said flopping has "been apparent throughout the series but I think it got worse" during Game 4. The league acted hours before Game 5 at Miami.

Kerr said flopping was "unbecoming of star players." "To me, flopping is sort of the territory of guys who are just trying to hang onto their position in the league and they have to find their way to be successful and productive somehow," he said in a phone interview before the penalties were announced.

"So if (Shane) Battier and

(Tyler) Hansbrough are going to flop a little bit because that's how they're going to impact the game right now, I'm probably more willing to give them a pass than when I see David West and LeBron falling all over each other in the post, two of the best players in the league."

The plays can be seen at nba.com/official. □



Floyd Mayweather announces Canelo Alvarez fight on Twitter

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Floyd Mayweather will fight young Mexican star Canelo Alvarez on Sept. 14 at the MGM Grand. "I chose my opponent for September 14th and it's Canelo Alvarez," Mayweather said Wednesday night on Twitter. "I'm giving

the fans what they want. It will be at the MGM Grand." Alvarez sent a tweet in Spanish announcing the fight. The 36-year-old Mayweather is unbeaten in 44 fights, the last a unanimous 12-round decision over Robert Guerrero on May 4

at the MGM Grand in defense of his WBC welterweight title fight. Alvarez is 42-0-1. The 22-year-old fighter unified the WBC and WBA super welterweight titles April 20 in San Antonio with a unanimous victory over Austin Trout.

The fight will be contested at a catch weight of 152 pounds (69 kilograms) and offers a rare bout between two unbeaten fighters in their primes. "Floyd has said from Day 1 that he wants to give fans the best fight out there and here it is," Mayweather's co-manager, Leonard

Ellerbe, told the AP. "We have the two biggest stars in the sport and they're fighting each other Sept. 14." The bout will be the second in Mayweather's six-fight, 30-month contract with Showtime that could pay him more than \$200 million. □



Floyd Mayweather Jr. lands a left jab against Robert Guerrero in the fourth round during a WBC welterweight title fight, Saturday, May 4, 2013, in Las Vegas. Associated Press

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THE HANGOVER PART III
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON - THURS 4:00 | 6:15 | 8:30
FRI 4:00 | 6:15 | 8:30 | 10:50
SAT 1:30 | 4:00 | 6:15 | 8:30 | 10:50
SUN & HOL 1:30 | 4:00 | 6:15 | 8:30

NOW YOU SEE ME
MON - THURS 3:00 | 7:20 | 9:40
FRI 3:00 | 7:20 | 9:40 | 12:05
SAT 2:40 | 5:00 | 7:20 | 9:40 | 12:05
SUN & HOL 2:40 | 5:00 | 7:20 | 9:40

FAST & FURIOUS 6
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON - FRI 6:30 | 9:30
SAT, SUN & HOL 3:40 | 6:30 | 9:30
MON - THURS 5:20 | 8:10
FRI 5:20 | 8:10 | 11:20
SAT 2:30 | 5:20 | 8:10 | 11:20
SUN & HOL 2:30 | 5:20 | 8:10

epic
3D VERSION WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON - FRI 4:20 | 6:40 | 9:00
SAT, SUN & HOL 2:00 | 4:20 | 6:40 | 9:00
REGULAR VERSION WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON - FRI 5:40
SAT, SUN & HOL 3:20 | 5:40

THE GREAT GATSBY
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON - THURS 8:00
FRI - SAT 8:00 | 11:00
SUN & HOL 8:00

IRON MAN 3
MON - THURS 4:00 | 6:25 | 9:10
FRI 4:00 | 6:25 | 9:10
SAT 3:30 | 6:25 | 9:10
SUN & HOL 3:30 | 6:25 | 9:10

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Doctor's doubts imperil a lucrative diabetes drug

ANDREW POLLACK

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LOS ANGELES - Dr. Peter C. Butler initially declined a request by the drugmaker Merck to test whether its new diabetes drug, Januvia, could help stave off the disease in rats.

"I said, I'm not interested in your money, go away," Butler recalled.

Merck no doubt now wishes it had. When Butler finally agreed to do the study, he found worrisome changes in the pancreases of the rats that could lead to pancreatic cancer. The discovery, in early 2008, turned Butler into a crusader whose follow-up studies now threaten the future of not only Januvia but all the drugs in its class, which have sales of more than \$9 billion annually and are used by hundreds of thousands of people with Type 2 diabetes.

"I knew some stuff that I thought was a worry and I was obliged to pursue it," said Butler, chairman of endocrinology at the University of California, Los Angeles.

Based on his latest study, both the Food and Drug Administration and the European Medicines Agency have begun investigations that could lead to new warnings on the drugs, or even to their removal from the market.

Or they could result in no action at all.

Butler faces powerful opponents in the makers of the drugs and many diabetes specialists, who say his studies are contradicted by other evidence.

"The data are inconclusive," said Dr. Robert Ratner, chief scientific and medical officer of the American Diabetes Association.

He said even if there were some excess risk, it would be "exceptionally low."

Nancy Thornberry, who heads diabetes drug development at Merck, said clinical trials, the gold standard of medical evidence, had found no increased risk of pancreatic disease from Januvia, even when results of trials were pooled to achieve greater numbers. "In fact, my mother takes sitagliptin," she added, referring to Januvia by its generic name.

Questions about whether the drugs raise the risk of pancreatitis, a painful and possibly lethal inflammation of the pancreas, arose soon after the first one, Byetta, now sold by Bristol-Myers Squibb and AstraZeneca, was approved in 2005. The drugs' labels contain warnings about that. What is new and potentially more serious is a possible risk of pancreatic cancer, which is virtually untreatable and kills most victims within a year.

Many people in the field compare Butler to Dr. Steven Nissen, the well-known Cleveland Clinic cardiologist whose warnings about Avandia, a different type of diabetes drug, led to its being banned in Europe and highly restricted in the United States.

Both men have faced criticism from those who call them zealots. But opinions differ on whether Nissen, and now Butler, are heroes or zealots. The FDA is about to examine data suggesting that Avandia might not be so dangerous after all. Some critics say Butler overstates his conclusions and that his findings have not been replicated by others.

"Basically, no one in the entire world over the last 10 years, with thousands of animals," has found what Butler found, said Dr. Daniel J. Drucker, a professor of medicine at the University of Toronto and a consultant to many drug companies.

Still, Butler is not easy to write off. He is a former editor of Diabetes, the flagship journal of the American

Alexandra E. Butler, a pathologist who occupies the office next to his, has also worked on some of the studies.

In the last month, lawyers defending drug companies against a lawsuit claiming that Byetta had caused a patient's pancreatitis, subpoenaed virtually all of Butler's records. "I think the message here is they want him out of busi-

pancreatitis and pancreatic cancer reported for the incretin drugs than for Avandia.

Public Citizen and the Institute for Safe Medication Practices, two watchdog groups, have since separately found the same thing. Public Citizen has already asked the FDA to remove Victoza from the market.

But these reports are vol-



Dr. Peter Butler, the chairman of endocrinology at the University of California, Los Angeles, at his research lab on campus, May 16, 2013. Butler's latest study on Merck's diabetes drug Januvia has prompted investigations by the Food and Drug Administration and the European Medicines Agency.
(J. Emilio Flores/The New York Times)

Diabetes Association. And he has some defenders.

"He should be an American hero, actually, a rugged individualist who is not going to be browbeaten," said Dr. Edwin Gale, professor emeritus at the University of Bristol in Britain, who recently wrote a commentary with Butler on the drugs.

Butler was born in Kenya to British parents, though he has worked in the United States since 1987 and is a U.S. citizen. His wife, Dr.

ness," said Brian Depew, a lawyer representing the plaintiff, Ross Hubert of New Hampshire, who claims that Byetta caused him to get pancreatitis. Butler said UCLA told him not to comment on the subpoena. Three other pieces of evidence raise possible concerns.

One is the side effects reported to the FDA, typically by doctors or companies, after a drug is on the market. Butler and colleagues found far more cases of

untary and can be unreliable. Also, when there is publicity about a safety risk, reports of that side effect can spike.

Several groups have looked at medical records of thousands of patients held by insurance companies. At least three of these studies have found no increased incidence of pancreatitis or pancreatic cancer. But a recent study found roughly a doubling of the risk of acute pancreatitis among users of the drugs.

But what has prompted the reviews by regulatory agencies has been Butler's study of human pancreases obtained from 34 organ donors who had died for reasons unrelated to pancreatic disease. Seven of the donors happened to have taken Januvia and one had taken Byetta.

US takes action to ease neonatal drug shortage

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. health regulators will allow overseas imports of a critical intravenous drug formula used to nourish premature infants, amid a shortage that has impacted hospitals nationwide. The Food and Drug Ad-

ministration says new supplies of the injectable drug, total parenteral nutrition, will be available to U.S. patients this week. The agency is temporarily allowing imports from a plant in Norway to ease shortages triggered by the

shutdown of American Regent, the drug's primary U.S. manufacturer. American Regent halted operations late last year to fix contamination issues uncovered by FDA inspectors. Regulators found a number of prob-

lems at the company's facility, including specs of matter floating in injectable drugs. Hospitals across the U.S. use parenteral nutrition formula to feed infants who are unable to eat or drink.

Microsoft aims to simplify with Windows 8.1

MICHAEL LIEDTKE
AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Microsoft is trying to fix what it got wrong with its radical makeover of Windows. It's making the operating system easier to navigate and enabling users to set up the software so it starts in a more familiar format designed for personal computers.

The revisions to Windows 8 will be released later this year. The free update, called Windows 8.1, represents Microsoft's concessions to long-time customers taken aback by the dramatic changes to an operating system that had become a staple in households and offices around the world during the past 20 years. Research group IDC has blamed Windows 8 for accelerating a decline in PC sales.

With the release of Windows 8 seven months ago, Microsoft introduced a startup screen displaying applications in a mosaic of interactive tiles instead of static icons. The shift agitated many users who wanted the option to launch the operating system in a mode that resembled the old setup. That choice will be provided in Windows 8.1.

However, Microsoft isn't bringing back the start menu on the lower left corner of the screen. Windows has offered the button for accessing all programs and settings on every previous version of the operating system since 1995. Microsoft believes the startup screen replaces the need for a button, but its omission has ranked among the biggest gripes about Windows 8.

Microsoft is hoping to quiet the critics by resurrecting an omnipresent Windows logo anchored in the lower left corner. Users will also be able to ensure their favorite applications, including Word and Excel, appear in a horizontal tool bar next to the Windows logo. Accessing apps outside the toolbar will still require using the tiles or calling them up

in a more comprehensive search engine included in the Windows 8.1 updates. Microsoft Corp. announced its plans for Windows 8.1 in early May, but it didn't offer details about what it will include until Thursday. The Redmond, Washington, company will provide a more extensive tour of Windows 8.1 and several new applications built into the upgrade at a conference for programmers in San Francisco, scheduled to begin June 26.

Antoine Leblond, a Microsoft executive who helps oversee the operating system's program management, said the ability to start PCs in the more familiar format is meant to ease the "cognitive dissonance" caused by Windows 8.

Gartner analyst Carolina Milanesi predicted the desktop option will spur more sales of Windows 8 computers.

"Some people were getting fixated" on the desktop issue, Milanesi said. "This may cause more people who felt uncomfortable with Windows 8 to take a second look."

Microsoft made the dramatic overhaul to Windows in an attempt to expand the operating system's franchise beyond personal computers that rely on keyboards and mice to smartphones and tablet computers controlled by a touch or swipe of the finger. But Windows 8 has been widely panned as a disappointment, even though Microsoft says it has licensed more than 100 million copies so far.

Microsoft views Windows 8.1 as more than just a fix-it job. From its perspective, the tuneup underscores Microsoft's evolution into a more nimble company capable of moving quickly to respond to customer feedback while also rolling out more innovations for a myriad of Windows devices — smartphones, tablets or PCs.

"Windows 8 has been out long enough for us to take stock of where things are going and what we need



Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer gives his presentation at the launch of Microsoft Windows 8, in New York, in this Oct. 25, 2012 file photo

Associated Press

to do to move it forward," Leblond said in an interview with The Associated Press.

It's crucial that Microsoft sets things right with Windows 8.1 because the outlook for the PC market keeps getting gloomier. IDC now expects PC shipments to fall by nearly 8 percent this year, worse than its previous forecast of a 1 percent dip. IDC also anticipates tablets will outsell laptop computers for the first time this year.

The growing popularity of

tablets is now being driven largely by less expensive devices with 7- and 8-inch (17.5- and 20-centimeter) display screens. Microsoft built Windows 8 to primarily to run on tablets with 10-inch to 12-inch (30-centimeter) screens, an oversight that Leblond said the company is addressing by ensuring Windows 8.1 works well on smaller devices.

If Windows 8.1 doesn't stimulate more sales of PCs and tablets running on the operating system, it could escalate the pressure on Mi-

crosoft CEO Steve Ballmer. Although the company's revenue and earnings have steadily risen since Ballmer became CEO 13 years ago, Microsoft's stock performance has lagged other technology companies. Investors, though, appear to be more optimistic about Ballmer's strategy. Microsoft's stock has risen by about 25 percent since Windows 8's release last October, outpacing the 17 percent gain in the Standard & Poor's 500 index during the same period. □

Google to sell HTC One with unmodified Android



This June 27, 2012 file photo shows an Android display at the Google I/O conference in San Francisco.

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Google is adding the recently released HTC One to its lineup of smartphones

running on an unmodified version of its latest Android software.

An HTC One model rely-

ing on the same version of Android as Google's Nexus brand will go on sale on June 26 for \$599. That's the same day Google Inc. will start selling a Samsung Galaxy 4S that runs on a pure version of Android for \$649. Most consumers have been paying about \$200 for the HTC One and Galaxy 4S since their April release. Wireless carriers subsidize the smartphones in return for a two-year contract commitment.

Google's phone sales aren't tied to any wireless carrier. The devices are aimed at people who don't like the revisions that HTC and Samsung made to the Android. □

Stocks rise as lackluster reports ease Fed concern

STEVE ROTHWELL
AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The stock market rose Thursday after a pair of lackluster economic reports convinced traders that the U.S. central bank will continue to boost the economy with its stimulus program.

Unemployment claims rose and an initial estimate of first-quarter economic growth was revised slightly lower. That suggests the U.S. economy may still need some time to recover from its funk and that the Fed will keep up its \$85 billion in monthly bond purchases.

"The big worry that's been hitting the market lately, that the Fed might step back prematurely, might be fading a little today on the idea that the economy does need a bit more support," Jeff Kleintop, chief market strategist at LPL Financial, said.

The Dow closed up 21.73 points, or 0.1 percent, at 15,324.53 points. In other trading, the Nasdaq composite index rose 23.78 points, or 0.7 percent, to 3,491.30.

The S&P 500 rose in early trading, climbing as much as 13.6 points, or 0.8 percent, by late afternoon. The index then gave up some of the gains in the

last hour of trading to end up just 6.05 points, or 0.4 percent, at 1,654.41.

The rise in the Standard & Poor's 500 index was led by banking and insurance stocks, which gained 1.1 percent. Among individual bank stocks, Bank of America rose 35 cents, or 2.6 percent, to \$13.87. The stock is trading at its highest in more than two years. JPMorgan gained 95 cents, or 1.7 percent, \$55.62.

Banks and other stocks that stand to benefit the most from an improving economy have surged this week, a change from earlier in the year when investors favored dividend-rich stocks like utilities. Now investors are selling dividend-rich stocks and buying so-called growth stocks. The S&P's financial index is up 2.1 percent this week, and its utilities index is down 2.5 percent. Even after that increase, by one measure bank stocks are still less expensive than the broader market. The price-to-earnings ratio for financial companies is still lower than that of S&P 500 average. The so-called P/E ratio is 14.4 for banks and insurers, compared with 16.2 for all companies in the S&P, according to FactSet.

Stocks also got a boost from deal news.

NV Energy surged \$4.34, or 23 percent, to \$23.62, leading a broad advance in utility companies. Clearwire, a wireless network operator, surged \$1.02 cents, or 29 percent, to \$4.50 after satellite TV operator Dish Network raised its bid for the company to \$6.9 billion. In economic news, the number of Americans seeking unemployment aid rose last week, a sign layoffs have increased, the Labor Department said Thursday. Claims for unem-

ployment aid rose 10,000 last week to 354,000. The government also lowered its estimate for U.S. economic growth in the first three months of the year to 2.4 percent from 2.5 percent. Trading has been choppy on Wall Street this week as investors wrestle with the question of whether the Fed will ease its economic stimulus. Minutes released last week from the Fed's last policy meeting showed that some central bank officials favored slow-

ing the purchases as early as next month, if the economy improves enough. The program has been a major factor supporting a rally in stocks by encouraging investors to buy riskier assets. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 106 points Tuesday, then fell by the same amount Wednesday, leading some market watchers to ask whether the rally that has pushed the Dow and S&P 500 index to record levels may be fizzling out. □



Trader Gordon Charlop listens as prices are called on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. Stocks were mostly sideways in trading on Wall Street Thursday, May 31, 2013, as investors assessed whether a rally that has pushed stocks to record levels this year has run its course.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

US Financial Front:

Average US household far from regaining its wealth

C. S. RUGABER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The average U.S. household has a long way to go to recover the wealth it lost to the Great Recession, a report by the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis concluded Thursday.

The typical household has regained less than half its wealth, the analysis found. A separate Federal Reserve report in March calculated that Americans as a whole had regained 91 percent of their losses.

Household wealth plunged \$16 trillion from the third quarter of 2007 through the first quarter of 2009. By the

final three months of 2012, American households as a group had regained \$14.7 billion.

Yet once those figures are adjusted for inflation and averaged across the U.S. population, the picture doesn't look so bright: The average household has recovered only 45 percent of its wealth, the St. Louis Fed concluded.

That suggests that consumer spending could remain modest as many Americans try to rebuild their wealth by saving more and paying off debts.

The number of U.S. households grew 3.8 million to 115 million from the third quar-

ter of 2007 through the final three months of last year, the report said. As a result, the rebound in wealth has been spread across more people and reduced the average wealth for each household.

In addition, though inflation has averaged just 2 percent over the past five years, it's eroded some of the purchasing power of Americans' regained wealth.

The St. Louis Fed's analysis noted that the rebound in wealth hasn't been equally distributed. As a result, many households are even further behind than the average.

Nearly two-thirds of the increase in household wealth since 2009 is due to rising stock prices, the authors note. Stock indexes reached record highs this month.

Those gains disproportionately benefit affluent households: About 80 percent of stocks are held by the wealthiest 10 percent of the population.

For middle- and lower-income households, home values represent the biggest chunk of total wealth. And home prices remain about 30 percent below their peak, even after jumping nearly 11 percent in the past year.

The analysis was written by William Emmons, an economist at the St. Louis Fed, and Ray Boshara, who directs its new Center for Household Financial Stability.

"It's like the economy is this airplane and not all the engines are firing," Emmons said.

Still, wealthier households account for a disproportionate share of consumer spending: About 20 percent of Americans account for about 40 percent of spending.

Consequently, the rise in stock prices should provide some lift to spending, Emmons said. □

US economy grew at modest 2.4 pct. rate in Q1

M. CRUTSINGER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. economy grew at a modest 2.4 percent annual rate from January through March, slightly slower than initially estimated. Consumer spending was stronger than first thought, but businesses restocked more slowly and state and local government spending cuts were deeper.

The Commerce Department said Thursday that

economic growth in the first quarter was only marginally below the 2.5 percent annual rate the government had estimated last month. That's still much faster than the 0.4 percent growth during the October-December quarter.

Most economists think growth is slowing to around a 2 percent annual rate in the April-June quarter as the economy adjusts to federal spending cuts,

higher taxes and further global weakness. Still, many say the decline may not be as severe as once thought. That's because solid hiring, surging home prices and record stock gains should keep consumers spending. Jennifer Lee, senior economist at BMO Capital Markets, said the small revision to first-quarter growth supported her view that the economy will grow a moderate 2.2 percent for the year, the same as last year.

Still, Lee expects growth to improve to 3.2 percent in 2014, as the job market accelerates and consumers grow more confident in the economy.

Consumer spending accounts for 70 percent of economic activity as measured by the gross domestic product.

GDP is the economy's total output of goods and services, from haircuts and computers to trucks and aircraft carriers.

The government's second look at first-quarter growth showed that consumer spending roared ahead at a 3.4 percent annual rate. That's the fastest spending growth in more than two years and even stronger than the 3.2 percent rate estimated last month.

Healthy consumer spending shows many Americans are shrugging off an increase this year in Social Security taxes that has reduced most paychecks. □

Applications for US unemployment aid rise by 10K

C. S. RUGABER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The number of Americans seeking unemployment aid rose 10,000 last week to a seasonally adjusted 354,000, above analysts' expectations. Still, the level of applications is consistent with steady hiring and remains near a five-year low.

The Labor Department says the four-week average, a less volatile measure, inched up 6,750 to 347,250, a third straight increase.

Weekly applications are a proxy for layoffs. Earlier this month, they fell to 338,000, the fewest in any week since 2008.

The decline in applications for unemployment aid has coincided with solid hiring. In the past six months, employers have added an average of 208,000 jobs a month. That's up from an average of only 138,000 in the previous six months.

The unemployment rate

has fallen to a four-year low of 7.5 percent, down from 10 percent in October 2009. The drop in unemployment has occurred, in part, because many people have given up looking for work. The government counts people as unemployed only if they are actively searching for a job.

"We can't make too many inferences from one week's results but the trend, overall, still points to improving labor markets," said Jennifer Lee, an economist at BMO Capital Markets.

Five states were unable to report complete data to the Labor Department, a spokesman said, because of the Memorial Day holiday earlier this week. The department estimated figures for those five states. That could mean that last week's figure will be revised more than usual next week when the final data is received.

Nearly 4.6 million Ameri-



Job seeker Anu Vatal of Chicago, speaks with Patrice Tosi of BluePay, seated, during a career fair in Rolling Meadows, Ill. The Labor Department reported on the number of Americans who applied for unemployment benefits in the last week of May, on Thursday, May 30, 2013.

(AP Photo/M. Spencer Green)

cans were receiving unemployment benefits the week that ended May 11, the latest data available. That's down 25 percent from 6.1 million a year ear-

lier.

A separate report Thursday showed that the economy expanded at a 2.4 percent annual pace in the first three months of the year.

That was slightly below an earlier estimate of 2.5 percent but much better than the 0.4 percent pace in the final three months of last year. □

Signed contracts to buy US homes at 3-year high

C. S. RUGABER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The number of Americans who signed contracts to buy homes ticked up in April to the highest level in three years. The increase points to growth in home sales in the coming months.

The National Association of Realtors said Thursday that its seasonally adjusted index for pending home sales rose 0.3 percent to 106. That's the highest since

April 2010, when a home-buyer tax credit inflated sales. Signed contracts have jumped 10.3 percent in the past 12 months. There is generally a one- to two-month lag between a signed contract and a completed sale.

Home sales and prices began to recover last year and have been buoyed by steady job gains and low mortgage rates.

Sales of previously occupied homes rose in April to

a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 4.97 million, a 3 1/2-year high. Sales of newly homes also rose in April, to nearly a five-year high.

Still, the supply of homes on the market remains low and that could keep sales from accelerating later this year. The number of available homes for sale rose in April, the Realtors' group said last week, but was still down 14 percent from a year earlier.

Fewer homes for sale may

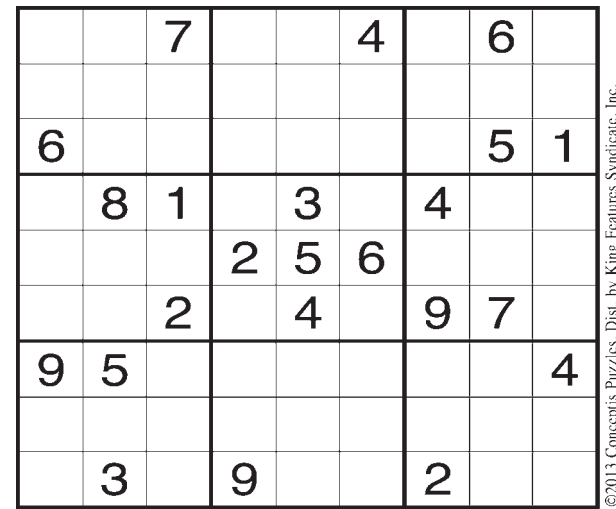
be holding back sales in tight markets out West, such as Las Vegas and Phoenix. In those cities, many homeowners still owe more on their mortgages than their homes are worth.

The trend showed up in the April pending home sales report. Signed contracts to buy homes soared 11.5 percent last month in the Northeast and 3.2 percent in the Midwest. But they fell 7.6 percent in the West and 1.1 percent in the South.

Still, the tighter supply is also pushing up home prices. That could encourage more people to put their houses on the market. The Standard & Poor's/Case Shiller 20-city home price index this week said prices rose in March nearly 11 percent over the past 12 months. That's the fastest pace in seven years.

And a limited supply of homes has made builders more willing to ramp up construction. □

Conceptis Sudoku



5/31

Yesterday's puzzle answer	2	8	4	1	5	6	3	9	7
	9	1	3	2	7	8	6	4	5
	6	7	5	9	3	4	8	2	1
	7	9	1	8	2	3	4	5	6
	3	6	2	4	1	5	7	8	9
	5	4	8	6	9	7	1	3	2
	4	2	6	7	8	9	5	1	3
	1	5	7	3	4	2	9	6	8
8	3	9	5	6	1	2	7	4	

MY BOY, I'D LIKE TO CONGRATULATE YOU ON THE EXCELLENT WORK YOU'VE BEEN DOING LATELY

WOW! THANK YOU, BOSS

I'D LIKE TO, BUT YOU'RE NOT GIVING ME A LOT TO WORK WITH

THE BOSS CAME UP WITH A FAIRLY GOOD ZINGER TODAY

KLEIN MARSHALL

www.blondie.com

5-31

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WHAT'S WRONG, WILLY WILDEBEEST?

OH, RALPH, I WISH I WERE SMART AND EDUCATED LIKE YOU.

5/31

GEE, WILLY, I WOULD INVITE YOU TO COME TO MY OBEDIENCE SCHOOL WITH ME,

..BUT YOU CAN'T TEACH AN OLD GNU DOG TRICKS

OOPS!

GAH! STUPID CARDS!

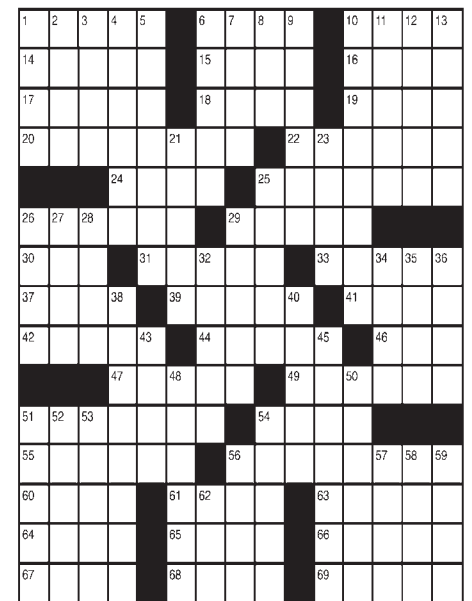
HOW COME YOU NEVER DROP YOUR CARDS?

I'M A LITTLE BROTHER. MY HANDS ARE NATURALLY STICKY.

KIRKMAN & SCOTT

[illegible]

1 Excuse
6 Quarrel
10 Edinburgh
native
14 The ___ and the
Papas
15 Small rodents
16 ___ down; lower
the volume of
17 "Well, you're a
fine talk!"
18 Knickknack
19 April weather
forecast
20 Homesteaders
22 Snapshots
24 Slender
25 Make a ___ for;
go straight to
26 Remove text
29 Deep pink
30 Pennsylvania
or Fifth: abbr.
31 Glowing coal
fragment
33 Abundant in
foliage
37 Close by
39 Song of an
Alpine
goatherd
41 Law
42 Mountains of
South America
44 One who gets
just his feet wet
46 Mattel's boy
doll
47 Not intoxicated
49 ___ up; puts in
disarray
51 Adored
54 Bird of peace
55 Made smooth
56 Daughter's
husband
60 Idiot
61 Heroic tale
63 Took illegally
64 Rim
65 Bottle stopper
66 Clear the slate
67 Use a Kindle
68 Sign of
affection
69 Bishops'
conference



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

5/31/13

DOWN

DOWN

- 1 Biblical book
- 2 Walkway; path
- 3 TV's "How ___ Your Mother"
- 4 Fight
- 5 Quarantine
- 6 Haughty smile
- 7 Holes; abysses
- 8 ___ bandage; elastic wrap
- 9 Hothead's problem
- 10 Toddler's carriage
- 11 Raccoon's cousin
- 12 Green ___; shallot
- 13 Upright
- 21 Foe
- 23 Cure
- 25 Drilled a hole
- 26 Wynter or Plato
- 27 If; albeit
- 28 Go first
- 29 ___ Rapids, Iowa
- 32 Cautious
- 34 Diving birds

B	A	G	S		O	P	E	N	S		A	D	D	S
O	B	E	Y		C	O	L	I	C		R	E	A	L
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5/31/13

35 Escape	52 Wear away
36 Strong urges	53 Europe's
38 Felt sore about	longest river
40 Yellow citrus	54 Piers
43 __ as a boil	56 Knighted men
45 Alters, as text	57 Mortgage, e.g.
48 Adorn	58 To boot
50 Guard	59 Garden intruder
51 Passenger	62 Luau dish

Film Review:

'American Mary': Woman Wields a Scalpel

ANDY WEBSTER

© 2013 New York Times

"I don't think it's really fair that God gets to choose what we look like on the

Ruby Realgirl (Paula Lindberg), a Jocelyn Wildenstein in the making, asks Mary to excise her nipples and minimize her genitalia.

she recites the procedures she's considering subjecting him to: tongue splitting, implantation, teeth filing, genital alteration and am-

This film - the second from the Soscas, and shot in their hometown, Vancouver, British Columbia - combines gore, quiet dread, feminist conviction and a visual classicism, often using a red palette, with impressive, unbelabored dexterity. (In an amusing sequence, the Soscas play goth twins who want to surgically exchange their left arms.)

Mary's boss, in a weak romantic overture, invites her on a road trip to Los Angeles, mecca of movies, artifice and plastic surgery. She resists making a commitment. □



An undated handout photo of Katharine Isabelle in "American Mary," a horror film directed by the twins Jen and Sylvia Soska. The films -- the second from the Soscas, is about appearances and their manipulation.

(XLRator Media via The New York Times)

outside, do you?" says Beatress Johnson (Tristan Risk) in "American Mary," a new horror movie from the twins Jen and Sylvia Soska. So Beatress has had work done. Lots of work: "14 different surgeries to get me to look like this" - a nightmare Betty Boop, with a synthetic, cartoonish face to supplement her '50s homemaker dresses and a Kewpie-doll voice uttering the occasional obscene epithet.

Beatress is just one fascinating player in this compelling film about appearances and their manipulation. The title character is Mary Mason (Katharine Isabelle), a student in need of fast cash to complete her coursework in amputation surgery. Applying for employment as a masseuse at a seedy strip joint, she soon finds herself operating on men her thug boss (Antonio Cupo) has brutalized in the basement. When word gets out about Mary's knack with a scalpel, the "body-mod community," as Beatress calls it (as in body modification), seeks her out for overhauls and touch-ups.

Ruby seeks the neutered look of a doll, because "a doll can be naked and never feel shy or sexualized or degraded." Mary accommodates her, returns home and vomits, only to apply makeup in the next scene.

Who drives Ruby to such lengths? Her husband, for one, and probably men like Mary's professor (David Lovgren), who drugs and rapes Mary at a party. He soon involuntarily discovers Mary's skills firsthand, as

putation. We've seen medical gear - gurneys, rubber aprons, cutlery - in myriad horror movies, "The Human Centipede," "Dead Ringers" and "Audition" among them. But maybe not metaphors like the caged bird Mary keeps, in a nod to Jean-Pierre Melville, or her uncommon path to self-sufficiency (at one point she literally sews up her own wound), a transformation skillfully elucidated by Isabelle.

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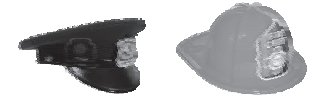
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New study restores famed fossil to “bird” branch

ALICIA CHANG

AP Science Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A raven-sized creature that lived about 150 million years ago is back on its perch, a new study says. Widely pegged as the earliest known bird, Archaeopteryx's status was called into question two years ago by Chinese scientists. They proposed yanking the prehistoric creature off the “bird” branch of the evolutionary family tree and moving it onto a closely related lineage of birdlike dinosaurs.

Now an international team led by the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences believes Archaeopteryx should indeed be considered a bird.

The famed fossil was discovered in 1861 in Germany and quickly became an evolutionary icon. Archaeopteryx possessed part-bird, part-reptile traits. It sported broad wings and feathers like a bird, but it



An undated image released by the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences shows the skeleton of a recently discovered dinosaur dubbed Aurornis xui that roamed China during the middle to late Jurassic period. A new study published in the journal Nature finds the discovery restores the fossil creature Archaeopteryx back to the “bird” branch of the evolutionary family tree.

Associated Press

also had three-fingered claws, sharp teeth and a long bony tail similar to a dinosaur.

Fossil discoveries of feath-

ered dinosaurs in northeastern China over the past two decades have challenged Archaeopteryx's place in bird evolution.

The latest evidence suggesting Archaeopteryx had more in common with birds than dinosaurs comes from the discovery of an intact,

well-preserved skeleton of a previously unknown dinosaur dubbed Aurornis xui. It lived during the middle to late Jurassic era in China's Liaoning province where many early birds and feathered dinosaurs roamed.

Belgian researcher Pascal Godefroit and his team compared the anatomy of the newly discovered dinosaur fossil to a variety of birds and dinosaurs to determine their relationship. The analysis, published in Thursday's issue of the journal Nature, classifies Archaeopteryx back into the bird category.

Lawrence Witmer, a bird evolution expert at Ohio University, called the analysis compelling. But he said it's still tough to tease apart that segment of the family tree.

“All of these little feathered species running and flapping around ... were all very similar,” Witmer, who had no role in the research, said in an email. □



Peter Diamandis, co-chairman of Planetary Resources, an asteroid mining company based in Bellevue, Wash., talks to reporters Wednesday, May 29, 2013, in Seattle about his company's plans for the world's first crowd funded space telescope.

Associated Press

Company seeking money to build space telescope

DONNA GORDON
BLANKINSHIP

Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — A U.S. company that wants to send robots into space to mine precious metals from asteroids has found another way to use the expensive technology it's developing for its space venture.

Planetary Resources Inc. announced Wednesday it plans to launch an extra space telescope in early 2015 to be used by the general public to take pictures of their favorite constellations, or to do their own research for the benefit of the world.

People who want to join the operation will have to contribute toward the \$1 million price tag. For instance, for \$200 a member of the public can aim the telescope once and take a

picture. For \$450, they can take three pictures.

People also can pay more and donate their telescope time to school children or professional researchers. Planetary Resources co-founder Peter Diamandis said the Bellevue, Washington-based company hopes schools and science museums will be the primary beneficiaries of the project. “Our goal is to democratize access to space,” he said. The company doesn't need the public's money to support its asteroid mining efforts, Diamandis added. They see the donations as more of a confirmation that people are really interested in taking part in space exploration.

After Planetary Resources announced its plan to mine asteroids more than a year ago, the company

was flooded with public response to the project.

They received some 50,000 emails from people who wanted to get involved. About 3,500 filled out a five-page job application. Another 2,500 wanted to invest.

The public fundraising effort is their way of harnessing this information and “building a community who can go on this epic journey with us,” Diamandis said.

Diamandis also wants to make a public statement about the way entrepreneurs are taking over space development from the governments that have paid for all such work in the past.

“Space is a business,” he said.

Planetary Resources' main business remains asteroid mining, Diamandis emphasized. □

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Elvis Costello and The Roots team up on new album

MESFIN FEKADU

AP Music Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — When Elvis Costello and The Roots teamed up for a new album, they knew their pairing was unlikely and unconventional, so they secretly recorded music without the approval of their record labels.

"Sometimes if you ... get the record company involved, then people have ambition rather than starting to play, so we started to play," Costello said in a recent interview.

"We did it without a label or deadline pressure," said Ahmir "Questlove" Thompson as he sat next to Costello. "This absolutely was a

passion project."

They began recording "Wise Up Ghost," which will be released Sept. 17, two years ago. It's a moody, 12-track album that features both new songs and others borrowed from Costello's catalog, including the drum-filled "Sugar Won't Work," which samples from "You Left Me in the Dark," and the soft and simple "Tripwire," which takes from "Satellite."

The Roots first collaborated with Costello on NBC's "Late Night With Jimmy Fallon," where the hip-hop group is the house band. They also worked with the 58-year-old British rocker at a Prince tribute concert in

March.

"This is like our dream — that's all I can say," a smiling Questlove said. "This is the first project at 'Fallon' where I'm making my musical dreams come true." Longtime Roots collaborator Steven Mandel co-produced "Wise Up Ghost" with Questlove and Costello.

"The thing I like most of all, the drums are really loud," Costello said. "I'm singing quite close, not having to yell to get it over."

The Roots released a collaborative album with John Legend in 2010. A year later, they released an album with Betty Wright.

Questlove says working



From left, English singer-songwriter Elvis Costello poses for a portrait with drummer Ahmir "Questlove" Thompson of "The Roots," in promotion of their upcoming album "Wise Up Ghost," Tuesday, May 21, 2013, in New York.

Associated Press

alongside Costello, a member of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, was scary.

"I was worried in case it didn't work. I knew I'd be the bad guy," he said. □

DC marks Superman's 75th anniversary with logo



This illustration released by DC Entertainment shows a logo commemorating the 75th anniversary of Superman.

Associated Press

Associated Press

What to get Superman for his 75th birthday? DC Entertainment's starting with a new logo. The company, part of Warner Bros. Entertainment, unveiled the

new logo Thursday in honor of Superman's 75th anniversary. It ties in the iconic character's familiar red and blue colors, along with his ever-present cape, and the legend "75 Years." Its

first appearance is on the cover of "Superman Unchained" by DC co-publisher Jim Lee and writer Scott Snyder on June 12, along with a new animated short being produced by Zack Snyder, portions of which will be shown at San Diego Comic-Con in July as a sneak-peak. Snyder's finished version, which will pay homage to Superman, will debut in full later this summer. Warner Bros. CEO Kevin Tsujihara said Thursday the new logo is part of a yearlong celebration of what he called the "first super hero" whose exploits have jumped from the pages of comic books to radio, television, movies (the latest incarnation, "Man of Steel," is due out this summer) and video games, among other media. "We are proud to commemorate this milestone with exciting entertainment across the entire Studio and across the globe, ensuring this enduring icon reaches new generations of audiences," he said of the character created in Cleveland, Ohio, by Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster and who debuted on the cover of "Action Comics" No. 1 in June 1938. □



Billy Joel, left, and Tony Bennett pose on stage before a special master class school-wide assembly event for the Frank Sinatra School of the Arts, the public high school Bennett founded, on Thursday, May 30, 2013 in New York

Associated Press

Billy Joel surprises New York high school

MESFIN FEKADU

AP Music Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Billy Joel has surprised an assembly full of students at the Frank Sinatra School of the Arts. Joel appeared with Tony Bennett, who opened the school in 2001 through his Explore the Arts program. Joel performed some songs on piano on Thursday and answered questions from students. One male student asked for a hug as the

audience cheered on. Another had the 64-year-old sign his yearbook.

Joel said in an interview that his favorite moment in school was cutting class to go play the piano. Joel did not graduate with his class and instead was given a diploma 25 years later.

He has made a number of visits to colleges in recent years — including a recent trip to Vanderbilt that went viral. □

Cover songs: Homage or irksome marketing ploy?

RYAN NAKASHIMA

AP Business Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — There are about 600 versions of Adele's Oscar-winning song "Skyfall" on the Spotify subscription music service. Not one of them features Adele.

Adele's label, XL Recordings, keeps her music off of all-you-can-listen subscription plans until download sales peter out. In the meantime, copycat artists fill the void, racking up royalty revenue, often before customers realize they've been listening to someone else.

Alice Bonde Nissen found that out the hard way. She once paid 99 Krone (\$17) a month for Spotify's premium service in Denmark. Bonde found a version of "Skyfall" and mistakenly clicked on a "follow" button to become a fan of GMPresents and Jocelyn Scofield, the name for a cover-song specialist with some 4,600 Spotify followers. Scofield, who didn't respond to a message seeking comment for this story, has the most listened-to cover of "Skyfall" on the service.

"When I found out ... that I couldn't find the original 'Skyfall' (and some other hits) I decided to quit Spotify," Nissen says.

Thousands of cover songs crowd digital music services such as Spotify and Rhapsody and listeners are getting annoyed. The phenomenon threatens the growth of these services—which have millions of paying subscribers—and could hold back the tepid recovery of a music industry still reeling from the de-



This Feb. 24, 2013 file photo shows singer Adele performing "Skyfall" during the Oscars at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles. Associated Press

cline of the CD.

Streaming services put a world of music at listeners' fingertips with millions of tracks, everything from the latest pop hits to age-old violin concertos. For a flat fee—usually about \$10 a month in the U.S.—users can listen to as many songs as they wish. The music resides on the provider's servers and gets transmitted, or streamed, to subscribers as they listen on smartphones, tablet computers and PCs. The services allow users to store songs on their devices as long as they keep paying. But because such a vast selection can be stored online in the so-called cloud, when listeners search for popular songs, they often find oddball renditions.

Today anyone with a computer, a microphone and an Internet connection can create and distribute a cover. New technology,

from affordable digital recording equipment and sound-mixing programs to convenient online services are making home-made covers an easy and profitable endeavor. And sing-it-yourself shows such as "American Idol," "The Voice" and "The X Factor" are fueling the notion that anyone with a decent voice can be a star.

Spotify's head of development and analysis, Sachin Doshi, acknowledges that finding covers instead of originals can be frustrating. "We recognize it's a problem we haven't fully solved yet," Doshi says.

Jon Maples, Rhapsody's vice president of product management, says customers have asked that cover songs be removed and the company has targeted 10,000 for deletion. "It just clutters the experience," he says.

Some independent art-

ists insist cover songs are a fast way to achieve fame. Kina Grannis says covers are helping her build a fan base.

U.S. copyright law says cover artists don't require the original artist's permission, as long as they get a license, pay royalties and let the original songwriters release their version first. Streaming services like Spotify are obligated by law to handle songwriting royalties on behalf of cover artists.

Obtaining a license to record a cover is easy and inexpensive. Services like Google Inc.'s Limelight, which launched in late 2009, offer commercial song licenses to anyone who fills out a form. For each song they cover, artists pay a \$15 fee. By law, Limelight also charges \$9.10 in advance for every 100 downloads the artists may sell. TuneCore, which

launched in 2006, distributes songs on outlets like iTunes for \$10 per track. Selling a couple hundred tracks—because of consumer confusion or otherwise—can earn cover artists enough money to pay the bills.

The hurdle is so low for the average amateur that once a hit song comes out, it's covered quickly. Take "Suit & Tie," a Justin Timberlake song released by RCA Records in January. There are already around 180 covers on Spotify in addition to Timberlake's version.

Since Adele's "Skyfall" was released in October, it has sold more than 1.9 million copies in the U.S. Cover artists sold more than 54,000 copies, according to Nielsen SoundScan. The top-selling cover was produced by Movie Sounds Unlimited, a subsidiary of German music publisher BMG, and sold over 9,800 units.

The singer on the Movie Sounds Unlimited version of "Skyfall" imitates Adele's official version down to the brassy intro and the unique way the British diva rolls over the sound "L" like an "O" when she sings "Let the sky fall when it crumbles."

On iTunes, 35 people have reviewed the album containing Movie Sounds Unlimited's version of "Skyfall." Half of them felt the purchase was a dud, giving the album a one-star rating, the lowest in the electronic store.

"Adele's voice is perfect for this song, not whoever sung it for this album," writes one reviewer. □



Hollywood actor Danny Glover addresses protesting union members in downtown Johannesburg, Thursday, May 30, 2013. Associated Press

Danny Glover joins protest in South Africa

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Hollywood actor Danny Glover has made an appearance at a union protest in downtown Johannesburg.

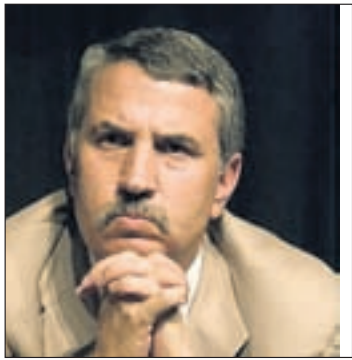
Glover, also a labor rights activist, is in South Africa as part of a trade union delegation from the United States that seeks inter-

national support for auto workers in Canton, Mississippi. The workers want to form a union at an auto manufacturing plant operated by Japanese company Nissan in Canton.

On Thursday, Glover attended protests by South Africa's Police and Prisons Civil Rights Union that drew

hundreds of protesters. They want police officials to improve administrative staff pay and work conditions. Glover was joined on his trip by Bob King, president of the United Auto Workers union. The two were invited by the National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa. □

How To Get A Job



THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN
© 2013 New York Times

Underneath the huge drop in demand that drove unemployment up to 9 percent during the recession, there's been an important shift in the education-to-work model in America. Anyone who's been looking for a job knows what I mean. It is best summed up by the mantra from the Harvard education expert Tony Wagner that the world doesn't care anymore what you know; all it cares "is what you can do with what you know." And since jobs are evolving so quickly, with so many new tools, a bachelor's degree is no longer considered an adequate proxy by employers for your ability to do a particular job - and, therefore, be hired. So, more employers are designing their own tests to measure applicants' skills. And they increasingly don't care how those skills were acquired: home schooling, an online university, a massive open online course, or Yale. They just want to know one thing: Can you add value?

One of the best ways to understand the changing labor market is to talk to the co-founders of HireArt (www.hireart.com): Eleonora Sharef, 27, a veteran of McKinsey; and Nick Sedlet, 28, a math whiz who left Goldman Sachs. Their startup was designed to bridge the divide between job-seekers and job-creators.

"The market is broken on both sides," explained Sharef. "Many applicants don't have the skills that employers are seeking, and don't know how to get them. But employers also ... have unrealistic expectations." They're all "looking for purple unicorns: the perfect match. They don't want to train you, and they expect you to be overqualified." In the new economy, "you have to prove yourself, and we're an avenue for candidates to do that," said Sharef. "A degree document is no longer a proxy for the competency employers need." Too many of the "skills you need in the workplace today are not being taught by colleges."

The way HireArt works, explained Sharef (who was my daughter's college roommate), is that clients - from big companies like Cisco, Safeway and Airbnb, to small family firms - come with a job description and then HireArt designs online written and video tests relevant for that job. Then they cull through the results and offer up the most promising applicants to the company, which chooses among them.

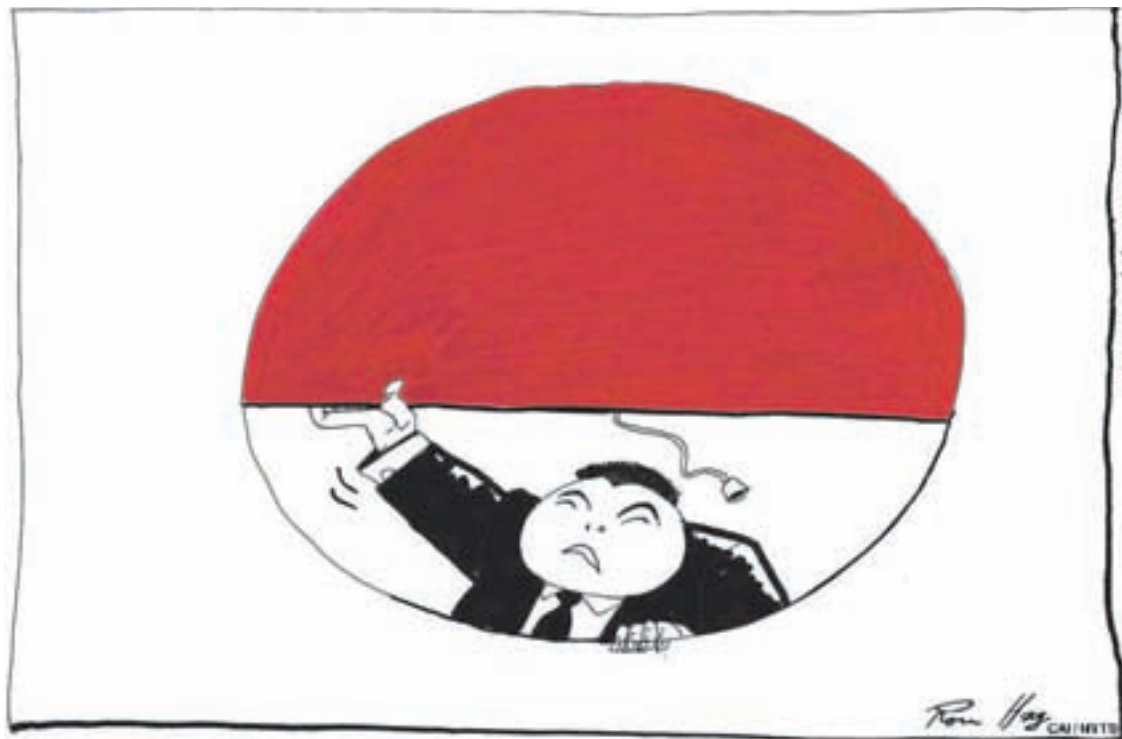
With 50,000 registered job-seekers on HireArt's platform, the company receives about 500

applicants per job opening, said Sharef, adding: "While it's great that the Internet allows people to apply to lots of jobs, it has led to some very unhealthy behavior. Job-seekers tell me that they apply to as many as 500 jobs in four to five months without doing almost any research. One candidate told me he had written a computer program that allowed him to auto-apply to every single job on Craigslist in a certain city. Given that candidates don't self-select, recruiters think of résumés as 'mostly spam,' and their approach is to 'wade through the mess' to find the treasures. Of these, only one person gets hired - one out of 500 - so the 'success rate' is very low for us and for our candidates."

How do they test people? HireArt asks candidates to do tasks that mimic the work they would do on the job. If it is for a Web analytics job, HireArt might ask: "You are hired as the marketing manager at an e-commerce company and asked to set up a website analytics system. What are the key performance indicators you would measure? How would you measure them?"

Or, if you want to be a social media manager, said Sharef, "you will have to demonstrate familiarity with Twitter, Facebook, Pinterest, Google+, HTML, On-Page SEO and Key Word Analysis." Sample question: "Kanye West just released a new fashion collection. You can see it here. Imagine you had to write a tweet promoting this collection. What would your tweet be?" Someone applying for a sales job would have to record a sales pitch over video. Added Sharef: "What surprises me most about people's skills is how poor their writing and grammar are, even for college graduates. If we can't get the basics right, there is a real problem." Still, she adds, HireArt sees many talented people who are just "confused about what jobs they are qualified for, what jobs are out there and where they fit in." So what does she advise? Sharef pointed to one applicant, a Detroit woman who had worked as a cashier at Borders. She realized that had no future, so she taught herself Excel. "We gave her a very rigorous test, and she outscored people who had gone to Stanford and Harvard. She ended up as a top applicant for a job that, on paper, she was completely unqualified for."

People get rejected for jobs for two main reasons, said Sharef. One, "you're not showing the employer how you will help them add value," and, two, "you don't know what you want, and it comes through because you have not learned the skills that are needed." The most successful job candidates, she added, are "inventors and solution-finders," who are relentlessly "entrepreneurial" because they understand that many employers today don't care about your résumé, degree or how you got your knowledge, but only what you can do and what you can continuously reinvent yourself to do. □



Michele, Here's The Bell



GAIL COLLINS

© 2013 New York Times

If Michele Bachmann leaves Congress, does that mean the end of the Light Bulb Freedom of Choice Act? That was pretty much my favorite Michele Bachmann piece of legislation.

"President Bachmann will allow you to buy any light bulb you want," she had vowed during her campaign for the Republican nomination in 2012. Nobody got into the issue of repressive lighting efficiency standards in quite the same way.

That presidential race was pretty much the peak of Bachmann's career. Remember her high point, when she swept to victory in the Iowa straw poll? Which was followed by the low point of coming in sixth in the actual Iowa caucuses. And calls for the abolition of future straw polls.

Now it's all over, apparently. On Wednesday, while touring Russia and unavailable for comment, Bachmann released a video announcing that she would not run for re-election in 2014.

"I will continue to work vehemently and robustly to fight back against what most in the other party want to do, to transform our country into becoming. Which would be a nation that our founders would hardly even recognize today," Bachmann told the nation. As only she could.

Her announcement had a strange, perky quality that drew instant comparisons to airline safety videos. Although it went on for more than eight minutes, Bachmann was vague about several critical points, such as

why she was quitting. She was far more specific about what was not propelling her out. Definitely not the fact that the guy who nearly beat her last time around has announced that he is running again. And totally for sure not reports that the FBI is investigating her campaign finances.

"My future is full, it is limitless, and my passions for America will remain," she said over cheery background music. She could very easily have been telling us that in case of loss of cabin pressure, we should put on our own oxygen mask before aiding other passengers.

So farewell to Michele Bachmann, a politician who had a great faith in average folks - readily quoting their opinions to the nation as if the information had just emerged from the labs of MIT.

A woman at a debate complained that a vaccine against HPV caused mental retardation, and Bachmann instantly announced the news on network TV. Ditto with the inside scoop from a Japanese man who assured her that in his home country, people who criticize the government aren't allowed to get health care.

In honor of her departure, Michele-watchers around the country rolled out their favorite Bachmann quotes. Mine was her contention that the theory of evolution was disputed by "hundreds and hundreds of scientists, many of them holding Nobel Prizes."

We might not see her like again. Or, if one shows up, we might decide not to pay attention.

A long-running adieu (she's not really going away until the end of 2014) to a woman who worships the founding fathers - who, she once informed a Republican crowd, started off the Revolution with a shot "heard round the world" in New Hampshire. Patriots like Washington, Jefferson and Madison, who would never have wanted to live in an America where there were census forms or high-protein cafeteria

meals. ("Where in the #Constitution does it say the fed. government should regulate potatoes in school lunches?" she Twittered.) The most interesting question about Bachmann is how she and Sarah Palin came to be the two most high-profile women in the tea party. Neither one has ever had a real political organization.

Palin didn't like being governor enough to finish the term. Bachmann has been a terrible legislator. Women in Congress tend to be good at working with others. Michele Bachmann is good at talking on her cellphone during meetings.

They certainly have intense personalities. But you have to wonder if the secret is that, by political standards, they both look extremely hot. And if it's their appearance that made them such stars, is that for the benefit of the tea party men or the tea party women? Ronnee Schreiber, a professor at San Diego State University, who studies gender and politics, says the women in the grass-roots tea party she's interviewed kept focusing on how the pair "looked so feminine and dressed so ladylike."

Whatever Bachmann's secret, it isn't really working anymore. Her career jumped the shark when she and a few colleagues demanded that one of Hillary Clinton's top aides be investigated as a possible Muslim extremist trying to infiltrate the government. The aide, Huma Abedin, is married to former congressman Anthony Weiner, and I think I speak for the entire country when I say the poor woman has enough problems to deal with in the real world.

Meanwhile, the tea party caucus Bachmann founded in the House has lost its traction. In the Senate, right-wing newcomers like Rand Paul and Ted Cruz have captured the limelight from the congresswoman from Minnesota who once won the Iowa straw poll.

And sponsored the Light Bulb Freedom of Choice Act. Can't forget about that. □

Pollution concerns could douse California beach fires

IAN LOVETT

© 2013 New York Times

HUNTINGTON BEACH, Calif.

- For generations, California's beaches have been an international symbol of free living and youthful exuberance, where Gidget met Moondoggie and the Beach Boys had fun, fun, fun.

But these days, a blizzard of restrictions - on everything from dogs to playing horseshoes - is being imposed on beach activities up and down the coast,

California lifestyle.

"I go to the beach today, and there are signs that say, 'No drinking, no glass, no this, no that,'" said Jane Schmauss, 68, a historian at the California Surf Museum. "I want to write, 'No fun' at the bottom, because that's going to be the next thing they outlaw. Or 'No laughing.'"

The fire pits were installed decades ago as a safer alternative to the open fires that were once allowed. But regional air quality reg-

people rallied behind a cry of "Keep your mitts off our pits" in an effort to keep the fire rings here. And Travis Allen, a state assemblyman who represents Huntington Beach, has introduced a bill in the Legislature to support the protection of "important traditions that are integral to our culture and beach lifestyle, such as fire rings."

Joe Shaw, a city councilman in Huntington Beach, said the tradition of gathering around fire pits at night

about safety and public health as the region's population has boomed, more people visit the beach, and homes (many belonging to wealthy, politically powerful residents) have been built closer to the ocean.

Jefferson Wagner, a former mayor of Malibu known to local residents as Zuma Jay, fondly recalled the days when he would warm up at fire pits all over Southern California after surfing with his friends. They would camp on the beach (now

nocuous as it seems, can be dangerous if the beach is crowded enough, officials said.

"It is a sanitizing of beach culture," Wagner said. "We all miss the freedoms we used to have. But when there is greater attendance at the beach, we do have to modify how we use it."

Some angry beachgoers have accused wealthy beachfront residents of class warfare - using the fire pits as an excuse to clear the beach of visitors who make noise near their homes until midnight on weekends.

But Barry Wallerstein, executive officer of the South Coast Air Quality Management District, which regulates air pollution in the region, said the potential health effects from the fire pits are very real. Tests found that each pit causes as much air pollution in a given night as a diesel truck driving 564 miles, and harmful levels of fine particulate matter were detected in the air outside nearby homes.

"Fire rings have been used for decades, so the general perception is, How can this be a problem?" he said. "But they are affecting public health, and that's what we're responding to."

Wallerstein said he hoped to find a middle ground that would preserve at least some fire pits while also protecting residents, but warned that major changes were likely coming.

Longtime beach bums, however, agreed that the surf culture made famous in films like "Beach Blanket Bingo," in 1965, is already long gone.

Schmauss, the surf historian, said that back then, beachgoers were part of a community that would police itself, with people ready to intervene if someone was unacceptably drunk or playing music too loudly on a transistor radio. "Now, we expect someone that we're paying to come around and enforce the rules and protect us," she said wistfully. "Yes, I'm nostalgic, of course." □



Beachgoers huddle around a fire pit -- concrete rings designed to contain bonfires -- at Huntington Beach, Calif., May 23, 2013. The fire pits, which for many people are enduring symbols of a free, outdoor California lifestyle, could be the next beach activity restricted by city officials, but local residents have viewed the effort to remove the pits as an assault on their local culture.

(Monica Almeida/The New York Times)

turning beaches into sanitized zones that longtime beachgoers say barely resemble the freewheeling places they once knew.

Smoking is banned at many beaches across the state. On San Diego beaches, playing ball or tossing a Frisbee has been outlawed. Alcohol is no longer allowed on the sand in Huntington Beach. Even surfing is restricted to designated areas here, though this is "Surf City."

And the next thing to go could be the fire pits - concrete rings designed to contain bonfires - which for many people are enduring features of a free, outdoor

ulators have determined that wood-burning fires contribute to air pollution and pose health risks for those who live nearby, and last month they proposed removing more than 800 fire pits that dot the coastline of Los Angeles and Orange Counties, the heartland of Southern California beach culture.

But while beachgoers have largely accepted previous regulations, if not always abided them, residents here have viewed the effort to remove the fire pits as an assault on their local way of life.

At a public hearing this month, more than 100

"epitomizes the California dream of so many." Each weekend, scores flock to Huntington Beach's more than 500 fire pits, which bring in an estimated \$1 million annually for the city in parking fees alone.

"I grew up in Oklahoma, and when I was a kid, all I could do was wish that I could live someday in a beach town where they surf all day and clam-bake all night," Shaw said. "That's what California is to a lot of people. Let's preserve that."

But that dream of the beach as a realm of endless, care-free fun has increasingly clashed with concerns

banned), bring their dogs (banned) and set off fireworks on the Fourth of July (banned).

Now 59, Wagner said that as surfing grew more popular and less countercultural, and beaches grew more crowded, the need to enforce more rules also grew. San Diego banned alcohol on city beaches after a drunken brawl broke out at Pacific Beach on Labor Day six years ago. Many other cities, including Huntington Beach, have imposed beach curfews, which officials here have credited with reducing late-night crime.

Even playing Frisbee, in-